

REGIONAL HERITAGE PLAN EAST

2015 - 2018



Support to the Promotion of Cultural Diversity

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Regional Heritage Plan East

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Foreword

Communities around the globe are increasingly seeking ways to become more active in local governance and have a say on the management of their local resources. Democratic participation with an inclusive approach to all, ensuring the right to practice one's own culture, is essential to wellbeing of communities where multiple identities and diversity are considered important assets.

Heritage, as one of the foundations of contemporary life, plays a crucial role in local economic development as responsible care and management of heritage resources could offer opportunities for communities. The European Union/Council of Europe Joint Project - Support to the Promotion of Cultural Diversity in Kosovo* (PCDK) has been very innovative in engaging local communities with their heritage, while developing locally appropriate methodologies and programmes, based on agreed standards.

With its integrated approach to heritage and diversity, this Heritage Plan brings together the distinguished elements of the communities in a regional framework. Besides the well-known heritage assets, it tries to bring the intangible aspects of contemporary community life and ties the diverse ways in which heritage plays a role. The participatory nature of the development of the Heritage Plan encouraged local actors to play an increasingly important role at an early stage and planning for its future. The entire process paid a particular attention to sustainability and took necessary measures by providing concrete examples and guidance as well as training human resources to carry on the actions.

The Heritage Plan is a useful tool that will create a platform for local stakeholders to join their forces together under a regional strategy and pave the path for a stronger relationship between grassroots action and central level policy making, offering a dynamic and systematic approach to local development process through utilisation of existing heritage resources.

While encouraging a coordinated action among municipalities of Kosovo East, the plan also sets a common framework between Kosovo regions as they all followed the same process in their respective areas. In line with the principles of democratic participation, diversity and innovative actions, the process is aimed to lead the development of Kosovo Heritage Plan that will assist Kosovo authorities with their objective to become closer to European norms and standards.

I hope that the work of the Joint Project PCDK in setting an example through its technical assistance will provide stimulus for authorities to facilitate the work of local actors and create conditions for communities to better appreciate, protect and manage our common heritage.

Claudia Luciani

Director of Democratic Governance Directorate
Council of Europe
Strasbourg

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

Slalom to the future

All of those who have ever climbed Sharr Mountains with their glacial lakes, surrounded by Balkan pines, or visited Novobërdë/Novo Brdo fortress, created back in the early 14th century, don't really need lectures on the power of cultural and natural heritage – they have experienced it in its best edition.

But the fact that such treasures are found in Eastern Kosovo is not just a question of tradition. It is in the Sharr National Park, established in 1986 and covering an area of 39,000 hectares, that the biggest foreign investment in Kosovo is being prepared: Brezovica ski resort, in the Municipality of Shtërpce/Štrpce, with slopes suitable for winter sports, has all the potential to become one of the biggest tourism centres in Kosovo.

When we are talking about Kosovo, such forward-looking approach to the natural and cultural heritage is essential. You can call it cultural diversity, sustainable development or simply quality of life: the point is that citizens should always benefit from good ideas being put into practice. That's exactly why also such programmes as joint support to the Promotion of Cultural Diversity in Kosovo (PCDK), mainly funded by the European Union and implemented by the Council of Europe, are conceived and published: in order for the treasures to be rediscovered and to get new life again.

Brezovica resort shall be such an important test: can contemporary interventions into fragile natural, social and cultural dimensions bring new without ruining the old – in order to enable all communities to use heritage for local development and to improve their quality of life? By doing so, the awareness of shared heritage becomes very, very tangible: it begins to create new knowledge, new jobs, new business opportunities and – above all – new ideas among new generations.

I sincerely hope this Heritage Plan will encourage all stakeholders to prove they can be proudly anchored in the inherited past and well oriented into the future. With such understanding, they would all participate in a process that is not just another “pilot project”, but a process that can serve as an inspiration to other flight – or slaloms! – through the difficult territories of our contemporary crisis.

Samuel Žbogar,

Head of the European Union Office
and EU Special Representative in Kosovo

Introduction

All who have been engaged with the Support to the Promotion of Cultural Diversity in Kosovo (PCDK) project have been working towards progressive transformation of societies through participatory democracy, utilising heritage as a common value. We strive towards ensuring the wellbeing of communities, as a key contributory factor to fundamental human rights, through improved quality of life and living environments. By improving quality of life and living environments, we mean to encourage community life based on active individuals, committed through free and democratic participation in the process of development. This democratic development process should be based on the sustainable use of local heritage resources, on the creation of opportunities for equal access to these resources, and on the fair distribution of benefits among peoples in a dignified manner.

Genuine involvement of communities in their daily life practices, where they are active participants of decision making processes for economic and social development, is vital in helping us to approach the complexities of living together. Through intercultural dialogue we have the opportunity to create the necessary mutual understanding to relate to each other and redefine our relationships. Our existence today and our future perspectives are often influenced by our own past and what we inherit from the past.

Heritage might simply be described as the cultural and natural assets and resources that civilisations inherit from the past; at a local level, heritage is a woven montage of communities, places, stories and landscapes. How we personally perceive heritage largely depends on our age – children tend to associate heritage with anything “old” or historical, adults may associate heritage with identity, while those more senior might associate heritage with the “golden past” and a “loss” of values. But all ages recognise the importance of heritage at some level.

Recognising the importance of heritage does not always translate into valuing and understanding heritage. Heritage has also been subject to destruction; sometimes consciously, for complex reasons, or unconsciously, having been left to deteriorate, disintegrate and disappear.

Acknowledgement of the value of diverse heritage, honouring and placing it in the right place in history, is a challenging but exciting process, if managed responsibly.

The Heritage Plan for Kosovo East is the product of a regional community initiative of the Local Economic Development component of the EU/CoE Joint Project - Support to the Promotion of Cultural Diversity in Kosovo (PCDK) and follows on from a pilot project already completed in Kosovo West. It provides a framework for the identification of the most appropriate strategies to advance the objectives in the context of developing a sustainable heritage-led initiatives and tourism component within an overall tourism strategy for the region.

The Local Economic Development (LED) component of the PCDK project has been inspired by and is closely associated with the Local Development Pilot Project (LDPP) of the Council of Europe’s Regional Programme for Cultural and Natural Heritage in South East Europe.

While the PCDK I & II project followed a more specific focus on heritage-led initiatives and heritage tourism, it always sought to maintain linkages with the regional programme to complement efforts made in the countries in the region. Our heritage-led work creates platforms where transversal issues relevant to the communities are brought together around

concrete actions, setting examples for the type of society we aspire to build. As a result of the success of the Heritage Plan process in Kosovo West, it was extended to the other four regions of Kosovo.

The development of a Heritage Plan as a concept was influenced by the successful example of the Irish Heritage Council model, and experts from the Irish Heritage Council have assisted the process of shaping the Heritage Plans as well as providing support for capacity development of local stakeholders. The implementation of the Heritage Plan in the four regions is based on the proven methodology in Kosovo West involving community engagement, data-collection, feasibility assessment, pilot actions, capacity development efforts, heritage plan preparation and implementation.

A systematic, analytical structured approach was adopted based on the local strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in relation to the development of sustainable heritage-led initiatives and tourism in the area. Pilot actions that took place simultaneously in the regions made a significant contribution to the formulation of the heritage plan.

The underlying strategy involves the integration of heritage-led initiatives and heritage tourism development with the development of the general tourism sector in the region.

The strategy focuses on awareness-raising, education, training and suggested actions in relation to cultural and natural heritage and addresses practical issues embracing ongoing data collection/validation, site conservation, restoration, signage, heritage information and site security issues all through a facilitated partnership and cooperation process involving all central, municipal, community, heritage and tourism stakeholders and players in the region.

The process has been based on partnership, cooperation and community ownership and in Kosovo East a key partner has been the NGO Cultural Heritage without Borders (CHwB).

The Heritage Plan contains eight sections - emphasising the essence of heritage at the heart of community life; providing an overview of the heritage of the region; introducing the idea of heritage and a heritage plan; and describing how this heritage plan was developed. Further, it reflects upon changing attitudes and approaches of the local stakeholders as a result of the process and highlights the strategic consideration in development processes. Finally, it sets out objectives and associated achievable actions with a clear 'roadmap' on how to implement the plan while providing brief highlights of each municipality of the region in relation to the Heritage Plan.

The PCDK project's efforts to highlight the organic linkage between heritage and diversity manifests itself by minimising the distinction between tangible, intangible cultural heritage and natural heritage through a holistic, participative and integrated approach where all the communities have a voice and place. It also encourages the inclusion of contemporary arts as a form of expressing heritage, diversity and multiple identities of the region. This is essential for social inclusion and sustainable economic development.

At the PCDK project, we believe that the Heritage Plan will have a significant impact on the local development of Kosovo East, gradually leading towards the Kosovo Heritage Plan and presenting a positive example for other regions in Europe.

Hakan Shearer Demir
PCDK Team Leader

Terry O'Regan
CoE Expert

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- PCDK Regional Working Group members
- Regional Centre for Cultural Heritage in Gjilan/Gnjilane
- Mayors of municipalities of Gjilan/Gnjilane, Kamenicë/Kamenica, Ferizaj/Uroševac, Štrpce/Shtërpçë, Shtime/Štimlje, Klllokot/Klokot, Viti/Vitina, Ranilug/Ranillug, Kaçanik/Kaçanik, Novobërdë/Novo Brdo, Hani të Elezit/Đeneral Janković & Parteš/Partesh.
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List of Abbreviations

RCCH	Regional Centre for Cultural Heritage
CHL	Cultural Heritage Law
CHwB	Cultural Heritage without Borders
CoE	Council of Europe
CSO	Comparative Regional Integration Studies
HDP	Heritage and Diversity Programme
HCN	Heritage Community Network
IMWG	Inter Municipal Working Group
IMWG	Inter-Ministerial Working Group
LDPP	Local Development Pilot Project
LED	Local Economic Development
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MCYS	Ministry of Culture Youth and Sports
MEST	Ministry of Education Science and Technology
MESP	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning
MLGA	Ministry of Local Government Administration
MTI	Ministry of Trade and Industry (Department of Tourism)
MTT	Ministry of Transport and Telecommunication
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PCDK	Promotion of Cultural Diversity in Kosovo
RWG	Regional Working Group
SOC	Serbian Orthodox Church
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
IPAK	Investment Promotion Agency of Kosovo

A photograph of the ruins of a stone and brick church tower. The structure is partially collapsed, showing a mix of rough-hewn stones and red bricks. A prominent feature is a semi-circular arched window opening in the upper section, framed by brickwork. Below it is a rectangular doorway with a dark wooden door. The tower is situated in a grassy field with trees in the background. A large white number '01' is overlaid on a dark green rectangular background in the upper right corner.

01

*Ruins of the Monastery church of Holy Virgin of Rëgjavc/Rdjavac (Ubozac),
village of Moçar/Močar, Kamenicë/Kamenica Municipality*

HERITAGE AT THE HEART OF COMMUNITY LIFE



1.1 What is Heritage?

Heritage is everything we have inherited from the past including monuments, archaeological and other heritage objects, architectural heritage, religious heritage, flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, geology and topography, landscapes, genealogy, traditional music, games, events and performances, folklore, folk-life artefacts, oral heritage and local history.

Heritage is a vital part of our identity and sense of place. It is an intrinsic part of our daily lives, and an exceptional resource contributing to societies' wellbeing including employment, recreation, health, learning and enjoyment. The social value of heritage is priceless in terms of providing a focus for community engagement and cooperation, inspiring pride in the character of our streetscapes and landscapes, and encouraging us to care for our everyday environment.

There is sound economic rationale in supporting heritage, as heritage-led initiatives and heritage tourism in particular have a vital role to play in developing economies. Heritage-led initiatives and tourism deliver employment and sustainable financial income when it is integrated as part of a comprehensive development programme.

“ Heritage embraces both tangible and intangible elements that reflect the culture and creativity of human communities since time immemorial as well as the rich diversity and beauty of natural environments. ”

Heritage embraces both tangible and intangible elements that reflect the culture and creativity of human communities since time immemorial as well as the rich diversity and beauty of natural environments.

1.2 The Value of Heritage

In the past, heritage was often wrongfully perceived as solely being the responsibility of governments and academics. But just as there is central ownership of heritage, there is also communal and even personal ownership of heritage. Most households will have treasured 'family heritage'

by way of furniture, ornaments, books and documents, photographs, stories, songs, history, and even clothes that have been handed down from generation to generation. Heritage is a vital ingredient in educational programmes throughout the world. It is thus recognised at all levels of society as having a value not always measurable in monetary terms.

The complex ownership and associated values of heritage may explain why it is so often under threat. Its symbolic values can sometimes result in targeted destruction in conflict situations. Its perceived lack of monetary value can result in ill-informed destruction or overlooked deterioration, particularly where its significance has not been officially recognised, researched, identified and protected from interference and environmental damage. An awareness of such threats to heritage must be built into any strategy aimed at placing heritage at the core of the value system of all societies. Responding to such threats and realising the maximum value of heritage for all citizens requires adequate funding and a versatile approach to sourcing and justifying the necessary funds.



Anthropomorphic figurine, Neolithic time, Archaeological site of Varosh/Varoš, Ferizaj/Uroševac Municipality (photo: MCYS)

It is fortunate therefore that throughout the world today, communal heritage has an acknowledged important economic value at central, municipal and community level as a focus for small enterprises, an attraction for tourists and, increasingly, for investors. Most, if not all, states have heritage sites of international significance - but usually these are few in number and whilst their very significance ensures a flow of visitors, they usually have capacity constraints and in themselves rarely provide the basis of a viable, sustainable national heritage tourism sector. All progressive, responsible communities therefore have a strong incentive to engage proactively and creatively with their wider heritage.

Taking action in the field of heritage involves identifying its social, cultural, environmental and economic value. Through six essential steps, communities can:

- identify and record their heritage,
- ensure that it is safeguarded,
- develop their heritage and landscape,
- integrate it into the living culture of today, and where possible assign it a new sustainable use while respecting and accepting responsibility to pass their heritage intact to future generations.

This requires a strategic structured approach at the central, regional, municipal and community level and is at its most successful and sustainable where it is based on local communities sharing their valued heritage with visitors, rather than being solely based on commercial interests exploiting a cultural and natural heritage resource as a tourism product.

The Heritage Plan approach represents a practical, yet sustainable, framework strategy to facilitate and coordinate the five key actions identified above in order to realise the full communal value of heritage for society.

1.3 What is a Heritage Plan?

A Heritage Plan is a strategy for the identification, protection, conservation, enhance-

ment, interpretation and sustainable management of heritage, and applies at central, regional and municipal levels. It is an agreed, realistic action plan, with reference to delivery mechanisms and budgetary requirements. At the different levels, actions can be undertaken by one group or body, or by a number of groups in partnership. At a regional level a heritage plan can take the form of an overall strategic regional plan accompanied by a number of municipality-based plans. Whatever the scale, it should identify priorities for action by all stakeholders over a three year period, and should include a mechanism for review and evaluation.

A Heritage Plan is an opportunity to identify heritage issues and needs at central, regional and municipal level, and to address them locally. It is intended to influence the actions and activities of all the key players and stakeholders involved with heritage, and to raise awareness of that heritage, its value and its potential. It is therefore both a strategic statement about what the population wants to achieve in terms of heritage management and conservation over a three year period, and a list of actions to be undertaken to achieve the strategic aims and objectives.

1.4 Why have a Heritage Plan?

Heritage conservation and management is the responsibility not just of central authorities or local municipalities, but of everyone within the community. It often works best when undertaken as a partnership involving all interested groups and individuals. A Heritage Plan is an effective way to reach consensus on how best to conserve and manage heritage collaboratively in a way that focuses a range of collective energies and initiatives for the benefit of that heritage and the participating communities. It is a coordinating mechanism that provides a strategic context for communal actions, to ensure the greatest benefits are afforded to the heritage resource.

The efforts and initiatives of local groups and central authorities can find a broader

context within a Heritage Plan and facilitate agreement on the identification of priorities for the distribution of available funding for the conservation and promotion of heritage.

1.5 Who is a Heritage Plan for?

A Heritage Plan is for the people, for all of the relevant agencies and groups of the region, and for municipalities. It is underpinned by the principle of shared responsibility for and ownership of heritage.

1.6 What is the Aim of a Heritage Plan?

A Heritage Plan aims to secure benefits for the local community through increased awareness, appreciation, enjoyment and sustainable use, economic and otherwise of their rich cultural and natural heritage. The plan can also be used to gain the support of key players and to forge new partnerships in protecting, raising awareness of, and presenting heritage. It enables a range of actors

“ A Heritage Plan is an opportunity to recognise and acknowledge the presence of heritage all around us, rather than viewing it as something that is just visited on holidays or at weekends. ”

to engage in a discourse on the importance of heritage in terms of its global, cultural, educational, academic, economic, recreational, aesthetic and personal values, in addition to its own intrinsic values. The plan also recognises the value of sharing information and responsibility in relation to that heritage.

The Heritage Plan is based upon an integrated approach to the identification, protection, conservation, management and presentation of the heritage assets. It should

seek to holistically incorporate the various aspects of that heritage, looking at the historic, natural, cultural, social and economic environment as a whole, rather than attempting to deal with them in a compartmentalised way. This is a fresh, dynamic concept of heritage.

1.7 How is the concept of heritage embodied in a Heritage Plan?

A Heritage Plan is an opportunity to recognise and acknowledge the presence of heritage all around us, rather than viewing it as something that is just visited on holidays or at weekends.

In putting forward such a concept, the Heritage Plan should deal with the environment as a whole, rather than seeking only to protect the best – or most obvious – examples of heritage.

To date, legislation, funding and administrative efforts have tended to concentrate on the protection of the most ‘significant’ aspects and examples of heritage. Whilst the importance of these sites, structures and species justifies their careful protection, the Heritage Plan also recognises heritage outside these designated areas. It acknowledges the impact of the past and its peoples on every aspect of our lives and landscapes, tangible in its appearance and its morphology.

It is often the undesignated or ‘ordinary’ portion of the landscape that provides the context for important designated sites and structures - both in terms of space and meaning – allowing them to be more fully understood. Such a concept of heritage is closer to the principles of sustainable development, representing a wider understanding of heritage and making it more relevant to our modern lives. It also allows for a more coherent understanding of the environment, the interactions between the different aspects of heritage, and greater public participation in the debate about what is important, what should be protected, and how it should be

presented to local, national and international visitors. Such a holistic approach invites a wider set of values to inform the debate.

1.8 What does a Heritage Plan contain?

A Heritage Plan reviews the actions that may have already been undertaken and features a list of further actions which might be undertaken by a range of actors over the three-year period covered by the plan. It contains a list of broad strategic objectives which such actions will help to achieve. Insofar as possible the plan indicates who will carry out each action and may indicate the anticipated timescale for each. The plan may indicate possible funding sources.

The Heritage Plan does not necessarily include actions which are specific to a building, site or place, or the stabilisation of a particular monument. In general the Heritage Plan contains actions which reflect priorities identified in relation to collecting data, raising awareness, promoting best practice and presentation.

1.9 Sustainable Heritage

The economics of heritage is a double-edged sword. Protecting, restoring and managing heritage is an expensive process, and few governments in the world have the resources to fund such important work unless central funding is augmented by income generated by the heritage resource. Internationally, heritage-led initiatives and heritage tourism have become vital mechanisms for generating much needed direct and - more importantly - indirect income to support the heritage sector.

There is a substantial and proven tourism market for professionally-presented, sustainably-managed heritage tourism products. In many developing countries tourism in many cases generates over 20% of a state’s GDP, and it is the primary source of foreign exchange for the countries with lesser economic means in the world.

In Ireland, a small country comparable in certain respects with Kosovo, 40% of tourist expenditure is attributable to the historic environment. Annually some 2.5 million people visit its houses and castles, and some 2 million people visit its monuments. The income generated by heritage tourism arises directly by way of admission fees and other associated merchandise sales, but the real economic benefit arises indirectly from the local spend on food, accommodation and other services.

It must be noted, however, that sustainable tourism - where the attraction is managed and protected while its value is being realised in a responsible manner - requires a planned approach from the beginning of the development of a heritage tourism product.

It has to be recognised that heritage tourism gives rise to extra wear and tear on the heritage resource and increases the level of maintenance and care required.

It is also essential to note that the small and medium business enterprise (SME) sector has been the backbone of the European economy, and this reality is embodied in the approach of this plan.

While larger corporations may tend to selectively and intensively exploit the prime heritage sites at the expense of extensive development throughout the wider community, the SME sector thrives in a heritage tourism environment and is inherently more sustainable at a local level and smaller scale.



The House of Isak Pozhorani (1908-1913), Gjiilan/Gnjilan town



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The Church Assumption of the Holy Mother of God, 19th c., village of Bostan/Bostane, Novobërdë/Novo Brdo Municipality

HERITAGE OF KOSOVO EAST¹



The Heritage Plan of Kosovo East covers the territory of twelve municipalities: Gjilan/Gnjilane, Ferizaj/Uroševac, Hani i Elezit/General Janković, Kaçanik/Kaçanik, Kamenicë/Kamenica, Novobërdë/Novo Brdo, Štrpce/Shterpce, Shtime/Štimlje, Viti/Vitina, Kllokot/Klokot, Ranilug/Ranillug and Parteš/Partesh. The biggest economic and administrative centres in the region are Ferizaj/Uroševac and Gjilan/Gjilane.

* * *

Kosovo East region is particularly distinctive for the natural heritage of Malet e Shariit/ Šar Planina (Sharr Mountain) as well as for its mineral resources. Two glacial lakes of Sharr Mountain, Livadica and Jazhincës/Jažince, located on the territory of Štrpce/Shterpce Municipality, are the most popular among the local population. Lake of Jazhincës/Jažince lies in the steep and rocky Sharr-National Park, below the Bistra peak. The area surrounding the lake is abundant with diverse endemic plants and coniferous such as the Balkan pine, mountain maple, alpine rose, whortleberry wetlands, etc.

A large part of the Sharr National Park extends in this region. The Park was established in 1986 covering an area of 39.000 hectares. Major attraction of this extremely mountainous terrain is Brezovica ski resort, located on north-east, 12 km from the village of Brezovica in the Municipality of Štrpce/Shterpce. The favourable geographical position of Brezovica with slopes suitable for winter sports has enabled Brezovica ski resort to become one of the biggest tourism centres in Kosovo. It occupies an area of 2500 hectares at the height from 1718 to 2522 meters above sea level. The total length of the ski paths operating in Brezovica is 40 kilometers. Brezovica tourism complex was initially developed in 1960-1970. Further expansion of this tourism complex was undertaken in 1976-1980 when exclusive accommodation facility and a ski lift with capacity of 850 passengers per hour were constructed.

The region is well known for its mineral resources. At several locations in the region, there has been intensive mineral exploitation of lead, zinc, silver, gold, copper, chrome and iron. The mine in Novobërdë/Novo Brdo has been one of the most famous since the middle ages. This ore is known for very high percentage of minerals such as zinc, lead, silver, gold

¹The PCDK project refers to the regions as North, South, Central, East, West based on Regional Development Agencies' definition.

and copper. The area of Novobërdë/Novo Brdo is also known for its beautiful hillsides especially those surrounding the fortress of the medieval town that were recently well arranged for the visitors.

The main rivers that run through the region are Lepenci/Lepenac, Nerodime/Nerodimka and Morava e Binqës/Binačka Morava. Numerous mountain streams are flowing to the largest one – the Lepenci/Lepenac River. One of its branches, Nerodime/Nerodimka River, creates a natural phenomenon near Ferizaj/Uroševac town, so called Bifurcation in Nerodime/Nerodimka. One branch of this river pours into the Aegean Sea via Lepenci/Lepenac and Vardar rivers, while the other branch pours into the Black Sea via Sitnicë/Sitnica, Ibër/Ibar, Morava and Danub/Danube rivers. Recently landscaped area around the renovated stone old mill is the most visited place of this site. Another resource important for tourism development of the region is the mineral-thermal spring of Kllokot/Klokot. The spa centre and few private spas that have been built as well as the newly constructed park and playground area in the nearby village of Vërboc/Vrbovac are important steps that have been undertaken by the local communities in building capacity for attractive tourism and economic development.

* * *

Accidentally discovered fragments of ceramic and recorded underground dwelling structures on the archaeological site of Varosh/Varoš, 2 km. south of Ferizaj/Uroševac, indicate the only known settlement of the Neolithic period in the region. Several burial mounds excavated near the village Lashtica/Vlaštica, 10 km. north of Gjilan/Gnjilane, represent the Late Iron Age necropolis indicated by the fragments of pottery, jars, plates, jewelry, as well as by the remains of deceased man who was cremated. A unique artefact from the late Antique/Hellenistic period (6th-5th / 4th-1st c. BC), discovered in the Kamenicë/Kamenica fort area, is the fragment of engraved marble representing a funeral procession led by the wife of the deceased man.

What the researchers noted as a particularly interesting detail of this scene, was the type of a woman's dress similar to so called "Illyrian xhubleta" (a gown in shape of campanile), which became a part of the traditional women costumes from the rural areas of this Kosovo' region. Archaeological material originating from the Roman period is much more represented. Several artefacts of high value that should be noted have been discovered on the territory of few municipalities. A bust of a noble woman, made in marble that was found near the thermal-mineral spring in the village of Vërban/Vrban in Kllokot/Klokot Municipality, is an extraordinary sculptural work of its time. Among the findings of the Roman necropolis (2nd - 3rd c. AD), located near the Paldenicë/Palivodenica village, Municipality of Hani i Elezit/ Đeneral Janković, a belt made of bronze and decorated with ornaments of stain glass attracts special attention. A fragment of floor mosaic from a Roman villa, discovered in the village Nerodime e Poshtme/Donje Nerodime, Municipality of Ferizaj/Uroševac, with outstanding decorative features and mosaic composition can be placed in the rank of well-known floor mosaics discovered on the sites of Heraclea Lyncestitis ('the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia') and Lin basilica (Republic of Albania). A marble sarcophagus lid, accidentally found in the area of Nikadin/Nikodim village, in a shape of a tympanum and decorated in relief with floral motifs and a frieze of human busts is another example of remarkable artistic works of the Roman period (the 3rd or the beginning of the 4th c. AD).

Several fortresses from the Late Antique - Early Middle ages that have been recorded indicate the geostrategic position of this region in the past. The fortress near Pogragjë/Podgrađe, 10 km. south-west of Gjilan/Gnjilane, from which remains of a watchtower are still preserved, was a typical defense construction during the reign of the Emperor Justinian the Great (5th c. AD). Remains of the fortress's walls near the Lanishtë/Lanište village, Municipality of Kačanik/Kaçanik, as well as findings of bones, tiles, bricks and pottery at the foot of the former small fortress con-

structed near Topanicë/Topanica, Municipality of Kamenicë/Kamenica, also provide an evidence of well-developed area in the past with the fortified town of Novobërdë/Novo Brdo as its centre. Novobërdë/Novo Brdo site is located some 20 km. west of Gjilan/Gnjilane town, on the top of an extinct volcano cone. It was known as the greatest mining settlement of the Medieval Serbia with a fortress that was created in the early 14th c. Within the fortress there are an upper town and lower town facilities. Remains of six rectangular towers that were built in the upper town and two others that were integrated in the surrounding wall of the lower town are still preserved. Foundations of two churches built in 14th and 15th c., were discovered in the lower town. The fortress was finally occupied by the Ottomans in 1455. Remains of the churches in Novobërdë/Novo Brdo represent the oldest medieval building heritage in the region where two Christian religions, Orthodox and Roman Catholic, have met here. The older one, the Orthodox church of St. Nicholas, was built in the 14th c., while the larger one, the Catholic (Cathedral) church, was built in the 15th c. to meet the religious needs of the Raguzian and Saxon communities who worked in the Novobërdë/Novobrdo mine or traded ore extracted from the site. The "Sass" (Catholic) Church, described by Archbishop of Tivar at the beginning of the 17th c., had wall paintings and could host up to 300 believers. It is assumed that the church was in use until 1689 when a minaret was built next to it.

According to still existing inscription on the renovated building of the small church of Mother of God in the village of Vaganesh/Vaganeš 15 km. east of Novobërdë/Novo Brdo, it was built and decorated with frescos in 1354/1355 with a donation of the family of the local landowner Dabizhiv. Only fragments of the composition of the Liturgy of Archpriests (in the altar), few standing figures and a composition of Christ's Passions are preserved in the central part of the church. Scenes of the Cycle of the Virgin life and busts of martyrs in medallions could be recognised in the narthex.

Near the Novobërdë/Novo Brdo fortress,

in the village of Bostan/Bostane there is an orthodox church built in the second half of the 19th c., dedicated to Assumption of the Holy Mother of God. This small, one-aisled church has preserved iconostasis which icons were painted by artists who came from the region of Reka (Western part of 'the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia'). It is well known that many painters and woodcarvers from the 19th century's local artistic workshop of Dibër/Debar (Reka) were invited to decorate churches around the Balkans. Several works of these artists from the late 19th c., could be evidenced in the Eastern Kosovo churches, such as the iconostasis of two churches in the village of Gotovushë/Gotovuša Municipality of Štrpce/Shtërpçë, dedicated to Holy Virgin and to St. Nicholas, the iconostasis of the church of St. Nicholas located in the centre of Shtërpçë/Štrpce town and the iconostasis of the Monastery church of Draganac, Municipality of Kamenicë/Kamenica. The church of St. Varvara in the village Kmetoc/Kmetovce, Gjilan/Gnjilane Municipality, was built in the late 14th c. by a local landowner and the Monastery church of Holy Virgin of Rëgjavc/Rdjavac (Ubozac) near the village of Moçar/Moçar, Municipality of Kamenicë/Kamenica, was built in mid of the 16th c., are now both in ruins. These churches are important for the architectural concepts implemented, representing the transitional type of developed cross to the shortened cross plan (the church of St. Varvara), as well as the architectural style of the upcoming "Morava building type" (the church of the Monastery of Moçar/Moçar). The cemetery church located near the village Hajnoc/Donji Ajnovci, along the road Kamenicë/Kamenica-Strezoc/Strezovce, which was locally named Temnica/Tamnica ("Prison"), in the 14th c., was a monastery church. It was built in Byzantine style, with alternate layers of stone and brick. Only portraits of few prophets are preserved from the original fresco painting.

One of the most active and well developed monasteries today is the Monastery of Draganac. Situated in a picturesque mountainous landscape it attracts many visitors.

Many of its dwellings were recently renovated with the support of the residents of the surrounding villages. The monastery church, dedicated to Holy Archangels, was built in 1888 on the foundation of a church that was first mentioned in 1381 by the Serbian Prince Lazar. The only decoration of the interior is the painted iconostasis with wood carved Royal Door made by the artists from Dibër/Debar (Reka region). In the second half of the 19th c. in the monastery complex was established a local school. After the Second World War the monastery was used as an orphanage. In front of the monastery there is a spring which is believed to have healing powers.

* * *

One of the most developed urban centre in the region, Gjilan/Gnjilane town, in the Middle age was part of a province which seat was Novobërdë/Novo Brdo. An evidence of its development under the Ottomans is the building of Atik Mosque, the first mosque



Fragment from a Roman villa's floor mosaic, village of Nerodime e Poshtme/Donje Nerodime, Ferizaj/Uroševac Municipality (photo: MCYS)

built in the town at the beginning of the 17th c. as a simple domed structure which interior was decorated with painted and carved ornaments of geometric and vegetable motifs.

More information of the recent history of the town we can get from several monumental public and private buildings, located in the centre of the old town of Gjilan/Gnjilane. Erected in the period of late 18th and early 20th c. they were built under the influence of the European neo-classical architecture. The oldest one was the seat of Turkish Military Depot. The frontal facade of this modest, two-storey building is organised according to a strictly symmetrical arrangement of the openings which is visible in both the ground plan and the first floor. Another building of a public character built at the end of the 19th or at the beginning of the 20 c. in neo-classical style, with arcade-shaped porch along the frontal facade, was the seat of Kajmekamlek which is today the headquarters of the Mayor of Gjilan/Gnjilane town. Richer neoclassical decoration consisting of pilasters, balustrades, scrolls, cornices, made in stucco technique, was applied on the facades of the former "Public Technique" building, built in 1934/35 as residential facility, as well as on the exterior of the former Saraj of Mustafa Pasha, built in 1889. Today it is the seat of a Music school. The facades of the core of the building have the base-body-top scheme and they are strictly symmetrical and regular regarding the arrangement of the openings, representing neo-classical compositional principles combined with renaissance artistic elements. A cornice with composite profiles of semi-circular and triangular forms and pseudo-pilasters made in stucco technique are placed around the openings on the first floor. The entrance is through external staircase constructed on the frontal side of the building.

In addition to these modern buildings, only few traditional residential complexes of oriental type are still preserved in Gjilan/Gnjilane town. The House of Zekirija Abdullahu, which was originally used as a residence of the kajmekan of Gjilan/Gnjilane, was built as a one-storey facility. Its frontal façade is char-

acteristic for its symmetrically positioned openings and closed gallery constructed in the central part of the upper floor. Within the rich painted and wood carved decoration of the interior, there is an inscription in old Turkish which marks the year 1302 (1884). The building of The House of Isak Pozhori was started in 1908 and finished in 1913. On the first floor of this massive one-storey building towards the front façade the porch appears in a shape of a console.

Two other facilities of traditional type that could be found in rural settlements in the vicinity of Gjilan/Gnjilane town are the Inn of Shefki in the village of Verbica, 20 km. north-west of Gjilan/Gnjilane and the Tower of Vebi Zeqiri in the village of Haxhaj, 17 km. south of Gjilan/Gnjilane. They were built by using traditional materials such as mud, stone and lime mortar, and have characteristic organisation of the interior corresponded with the certain function. In addition to this type of complexes in rural settlements there is so called "Daci neighbourhood" in the village of Puset of Nikës (Pustenik), Municipality of Hani i Elezit/Đeneral Janković, consisting of eight two-storey houses, with open galleries (çardaks) on the frontal facades. They are abounded and ruined. The same situation is with the residential facility of "kulla" type located in the village of Nik's wells, Municipality of Hani i Elezit/Đeneral Janković, known as the Kulla of Nuhi Brava.

There is a legend about the building of the oldest preserved tekke in the region, the Tekke of Sheh Zenel Abedin, which is located in the village of Topanicë/Topanica, Municipality of Kamenicë/Kamenica. The legend says that it was built after "answered prayer of a foreigner" who wanted to build a tekke close to the shrine dated back in 1754. The tekke served for the religious rites of Helveti order.

Rapid development of the other urban centre of the region, the town of Ferizaj/Uroševac, has begun in 1873 since the railway Belgrade -Thessaloniki that was passing through the town, was in function. The train

station facility that was built for two years (1873-1875) due to many changes has more historical than artistic value today. As was the case with the most of the monuments of Gjilan/Gnjilane, the architectural heritage of Ferizaj/Uroševac, represented by several public buildings, shows the same tendency of applying eclectic elements of the European architectural concepts. One of them is the Theatre building, located in the city centre, built between 1824 and 1827. Its current function is as a "House of Culture". The interpretation of (neo)classical features could be noticed on the front section of the building where the entrance is emphasized with an open porch vaulted with two arcades and the triangular pediment on the top.

The two religious buildings situated close to each other - The Great Mosque of Mula Veseli and the Church of the Holy King Urosh on a symbolical way represent the multicultural and multi-religious character of the city during its recent history. The mosque was built in 1891 but it was completely destroyed during the Second World War. The model used for its rebuilding in 1943 was similar to the older mosque in Shkodra/Skadar. It has rectangular plan, an open porch and a minaret. The King Urosh Church was completed in 1933 according to the plan of the well-known Serbian architect Joseph Mihajlović, that reflects the traditional Serbian religious architectural concepts.

The area of Kaçanik/Kaçanik Municipality was also recognised as an important destination in the Ottoman period. Kaçanik/Kaçanik was a village when the Ottomans occupied the area in 1420s. In 1445 it was registered as nahiyah. The town of Kaçanik/Kaçanik was founded by Koxha Sinan Pasha in the 16th c., who supported the construction of a castle, mosque, public kitchen, school near the mosque, two inns, small hammam and few mills on the river Lepenci/Lepenac. According to the written sources the town's castle was built as an order of Sultan Murad II given in 1582. It started to be built in 1586 and was finished in 1590. Today only two walls of the fortress are preserved. Several years later, in

1594/5., the Mosque of Imam Sinan Pasha was built in the centre of the town. It is one of the oldest mosques of the Ottoman period preserved in the region.

A special place in this review should be given to the Museum collection displayed in the Gallery of Ferizaj/Uroševac (Centre of Culture). One of the halls in this building is arranged of separated sections for presentation of different types of collections, with photos of the discovered objects from the archaeological sites of the region as well as with original items of ethnological character collected from the villages of the region.

As a further example of nurturing the traditional culture of life of the people of the region is the very popular dance known as Karadaku/Karadak dance. They are traditional folk dances distinctive for the eastern region representing special dances of the Albanians where the primal peculiarity is the expressive featuring of dancers and emotions evocation almost as in a theatre performance. These unique dances are an expression of freedom as well as the bravery of the community. The Karadaku/Karadak dances include three main categories of dances, mainly performed by men but there are also lyrical dances performed jointly by men and women.





Uglar spring near the village of Uglar/Ugljare, Gjiilan/Gnjilane Municipality



03

*Bravě/Brava neighborhood, village Puset e Nikës/Pustenik, early 20th c., Hani i Elezit/
Đeneral Janković Municipality, detail*

DEVELOPMENT OF A HERITAGE PLAN FOR KOSOVO EAST



3.1 Towards a Heritage Plan – Research and Assessment

The Heritage Plan evolved as an output of the PCDK project component on Local Economic Development, first in the Kosovo West region as a pilot action and extended to other regions in 2013 and 2014. The Heritage Plan process focuses on heritage management and heritage-led initiatives including tourism development, effectively drawing together a range of proven community engagement activities and pilot projects into an integrated strategy for the region, with an initial two year development phase laying the foundations for an action plan to be implemented over a further three year timeframe.

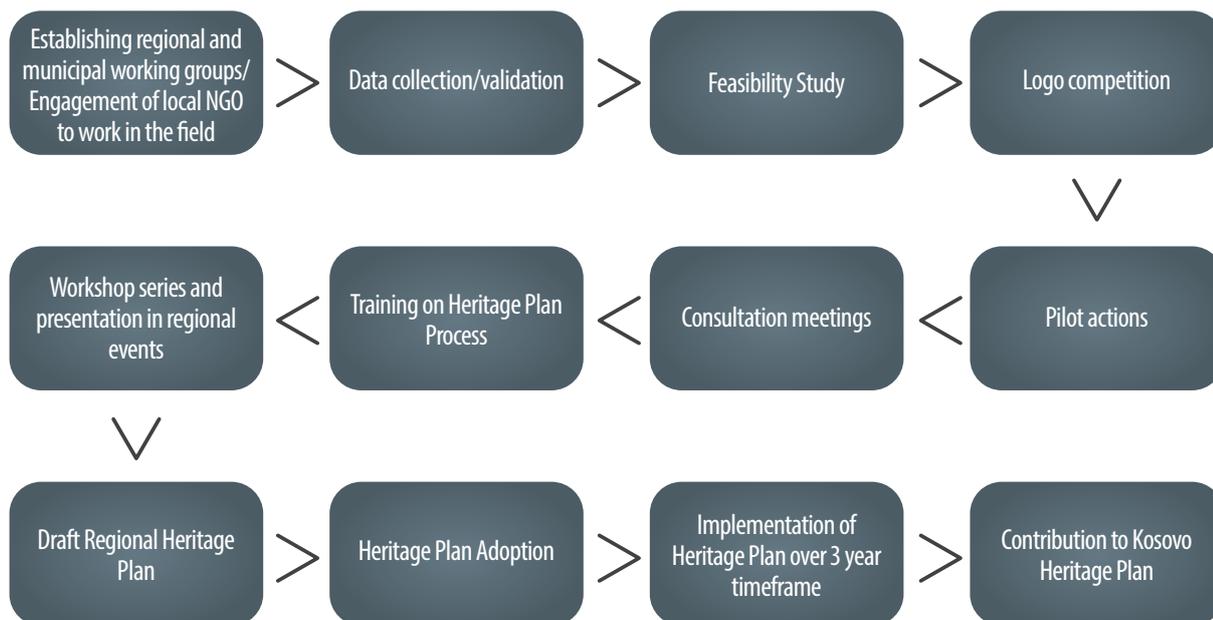
The successful methodology (as developed in Kosovo West) is structured in five phases:

- 1. Diagnosis Phase**
- 2. Feasibility Study**
- 3. Pilot Actions**
- 4. Plan for Regional Heritage Management & Heritage-led Initiatives/Local Economic Development**
- 5. Introduction and installation of the Heritage and Diversity Programme and its coordinators**

The project's progress responds to the dynamics of the region, with the focus of the process being on cultural and natural heritage and its related development potential including heritage-led tourism.

A priority throughout the process has been the engagement of communities with their common heritage, by means of awareness-raising, promotion, education, and capacity development activities.

The workflow adopted included the following actions:



The initial diagnosis phase involved a wide-ranging data collection and survey undertaken by different entities, presented in an online database application designed by a local expert.

I. MCYS & Regional Centres for Cultural Heritage provided:

1. Official list of immovable cultural heritage in the region protected by the Cultural Heritage Law, presented by the MCYS Department of Cultural Heritage
1. Data concerning the selected immovable cultural heritage of the region – provided by the Regional Centre for Cultural Heritage in Gjilan/Gnjilane.

II. MESP experts provided:

1. Data regarding the protected natural monuments and areas in the region

NGO “Cultural Heritage without Border-CHwB” provided:

1. Information on the current condition of the selected cultural and natural monuments/sites
2. Presentation of recognised intangible cultural heritage elements
3. Photo and video documentation on the reported activities on immovable and intangible cultural heritage and natural heritage.

The feasibility study evaluated and assessed the data collected, and confirmed the strategies and options identified that might be pursued to sustainably realise the value of the rich heritage of the region in social, cultural, educational and economic terms.

Pilot actions were undertaken in parallel with other phases to inform the process and to draw the communities of the region into active participation in the process.

This Heritage Plan represents a practical yet sustainable framework to facilitate a strategy

that builds on the work completed to date, and underpins the implementation of the actions identified as desirable in the feasibility study.

3.2 Towards a Heritage Plan – Guidelines & Field Work

From the experience acquired in the Kosovo West region, the regional capacity assessment and data-collection undertaken in Kosovo East during 2013, and guided by the feasibility study conclusions, the PCDK project team, working with the communities of the regions, have identified actions that aim to realise the potential of Kosovo East's heritage and its environment in the wider context of strategic planning.

The development of the Heritage Plan has involved the active engagement of all actors of the region including local NGOs, with contributions from the Centres for Cultural Heritage, with specific reference to establishing a current inventory of heritage in accordance with criteria provided by the PCDK project team.

In selecting heritage sites and assets for the pilot actions, all of the known heritage and diversity of the region were considered potential attractions that could initiate the development of "alternative tourism sub-sectors", e.g. cultural, spiritual or eco-tourism. The criteria for the selection of natural and cultural landscapes and historical monuments, sites and living traditions have been implemented according to the assessment of:

- Condition of the heritage asset, i.e. its presentation to the wider public
- Appropriate access to the heritage asset
- Availability of data of evaluated features of the heritage asset
- Infrastructural capacity of the surrounding/environment
- Interest and willingness expressed by the practitioners for safeguarding and transmitting of living traditions to the next generations.

In addition, a workshop series on heritage, carried out in conjunction with the other regions, accompanied the engagement of local stakeholders in processing the plan and establishing connections with their colleagues, keeping the larger picture in mind.



This Heritage Plan represents a practical yet sustainable framework to facilitate a strategy that builds on the work completed to date, and underpins the implementation of the actions identified as desirable in the feasibility study.



The following diagram illustrates the weaknesses in the heritage sectors of the region, identified in the SWOT analysis undertaken as a core action in the feasibility study:

IMMOVABLE CULTURAL HERITAGE:

- Archaeological sites and monuments not properly presented to the wider public
- Absence of signage of archaeological sites and built heritage
- Poor road signage to areas of natural and cultural heritage
- Urgent need for an updated and approved comprehensive inventory on building heritage and cultural landscapes
- Urgent need of conservation measures on building structures according to established priorities
- Need for an integrated approach to heritage within spatial planning
- Absence of appropriate management and rehabilitation programmes

MOVABLE CULTURAL HERITAGE:

- Urgent need for an integrated comprehensive inventory of museum collections
- Appropriate promotional materials urgently required
- Urgent need for a systematic approach to the conservation, storage, display and interpretation of museum collections.

LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND TOOLS FOR PROTECTION OF HERITAGE:

- Revised Cultural Heritage Law and Law on Spatial Planning
- Appropriate Regulations derived from the Cultural Heritage Law
- Appropriate Guidelines derived from the Cultural Heritage Law
- Appropriate guidelines for implementation of the Law on Nature

INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE:

- Absence of inventory
- Promotional materials on traditional lifestyles of communities absent or inadequate
- Few organised events and performances
- Inadequate support for the practitioners of traditional handicrafts, performances and related intangible cultural heritage products

NATURAL HERITAGE:

- Insufficient information of the natural biodiversity and landscape resource
- Inadequate conservation measures
- Weak infrastructure for satisfactory public access;
- Lack of an integrated approach towards landscape management & planning in all areas including high value natural heritage areas
- Poorly developed infrastructure for the overall management of natural heritage



Church of St. George, 19th c., village Stubëll/Stubla, Viti/Vitina Municipality

A scenic view of a mountain village, likely in the Štrpce/Shtërpçë Municipality. The foreground shows a grassy slope with some plants. In the middle ground, there are several houses with dark roofs and light-colored walls, some with balconies. The background consists of rolling green hills and a dense forest of evergreen trees under a clear blue sky with light clouds. A large white number '04' is overlaid on a yellow and grey background in the upper right corner.

04

Weekend houses in Brezovicë/Brezovica ski resort area, Štrpce/Shtërpçë Municipality

CHANGING ATTITUDES AND APPROACHES



During the course of the PCDK II project, a range of activities took place in the region with the active involvement of local stakeholders. A preliminary ongoing assessment that was undertaken on the impact of the work conducted by the PCDK project identified changing attitudes and approaches towards local development and heritage as a resource. According to these local stakeholders, the PCDK II project contributed to:

- More efficient multilayer stakeholder cooperation in the region
- Increased awareness and appreciation of cultural diversity
- Enhancement of the participation of women and non-majority communities in the debate related to cultural and natural heritage in the region
- Increased visibility of RCCH East Region to serve as think tank and resource centre to local institutions and civil society organizations
- Enhanced relationships and cooperation between local NGOs, communities, local authorities and institutions, including Regional Centre for Cultural Heritage.
- Increased community initiatives to seek accountability towards relevant institutions on protection, conservation and promotion of cultural heritage of the region
- Increased awareness of the local institutions and NGOs on the continued necessity of professional development on cultural heritage
- The familiarisation of local governments and communities with intangible cultural heritage, and increased support to pilot actions (including Karadaku Dance and traditional food "Ashura & Kaqamak")
- Increased interest to promote local and regional traditions through joint activities and festivals and pass on such traditions to future generations
- Stakeholder endorsement of the Heritage and Diversity programme and commitment to support and cooperate closely
- Changed attitude toward funding of cultural events-developed understanding that seed money is very important to keep cultural heritage practices alive

- Understanding and interest in continued platform for dialogue and cooperation, which was initiated as Regional Working Group, where all municipalities are represented.
- An increased understanding that protection and promotion of cultural and natural heritage goes beyond the responsibilities of relevant institutions-the role and responsibilities of the community is crucial.
- Increased awareness of teachers and elementary school children about cultural heritage and diversity
- Awareness and willingness of all local stakeholders for cooperation with all other regions in the spirit of a network on heritage.





Pjetërshtica/Pjeterštica cave, Shtime/Štimlje Municipality



05

STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS



An Integrated Approach to Heritage Planning and Management

The development of viable heritage planning and management in accordance with European norms and standards, with a strong emphasis on community wellbeing through the active participation of all stakeholders and civil society, requires a sustainable and integrated approach.

The Heritage Plan approach will facilitate the incorporation of heritage-led initiatives within the wider economic development with particular focus on tourism sector and products. The strategy will not focus solely on cultural tangible/intangible and natural heritage issues (including site preservation, restoration, signage, heritage information and site security), but will also involve the heritage authorities operating in partnership and cooperation with other tourism and community stakeholders and actors. Further it will encourage incorporating contemporary arts into heritage work as a form of expressing heritage, diversity and the multiple identities of the region.

This approach, as promoted by the PCDK project, has the potential to address conflicting demands, including the reconciliation and integration of diverse ethnic communities through mutually beneficial, sustainable economic and tourism development, whilst maintaining the integrity and pre-eminence of dynamic cultural heritage over time. This expectation will depend on the impetus of the commercial momentum being responsive to communal sensitivities throughout the process.

These strategic considerations are closely inter-connected, and the successful protection of heritage in Kosovo East will depend on the effectiveness and cohesion of the level of cooperation that is achieved between the public and private partners. For protection to succeed, it is vital that local communities are fully aware of the importance of what is being protected, why it has this importance, and how the activities of local people can impact on protection. A sound heritage management plan must embrace diversity, which requires a careful design and planning process. Well-protected, designed and managed heritage assets with proper promotion are essential for the development of sustainable, successful heritage tourism.

The heritage plan framework will be an important catalyst in achieving this desirable outcome through a range of specific strategic approaches.

Recommendations for Potential Integrated Regional Approach

The improvement of quality of life and living environment is essential for community wellbeing. Combined with its diversity, both in heritage and peoples, the Region East presents a vast amount of opportunities for an integrated approach to heritage-led initiatives. Historically, the area has demonstrated a great amount of open-mindedness; hosting very diverse groups and embracing this diversity as its richness. With the presence of these diverse communities also today, drastic landscape formations and heritage assets, the region stands out with its natural heritage resources. From well-known destinations such as Brezovicë / Brezovica and Sharri/Šar mountain range that offer opportunities in nature for four seasons to area of Novobërdë/Novobrdë and its surroundings as well as the areas that are less frequented, but full of rich local traditions and products, one could experience the sense of wellbeing through spring waters, thermals, wild fruits, herbal remedies and spending quality time with the restorative power of the nature.

The region east could focus on branding itself as a hub for natural and healthy life in Kosovo that offers experiences, including agricultural services and products of quality to its people and visitors. Its geographical location of being on the crossroads is an added value and easily accessible. All twelve municipalities of the region have great potentials and offer wide range of opportunities. Considering that a number of municipalities in the region are relatively small, joining their forces and resources would be more feasible, making natural heritage and healthy life as the centerpiece of their regional plan. Creation of opportunities for day trips, weekend packages and therapeutic programmes, combined with recreational activities, could offer a relaxing stay for all ages.

The heritage plan east recommends that stakeholders work toward an overall vision of the development of the region where the region presents good practices of creative industries and of an integrated approach using its natural heritage and agricultural practices as the main resource focusing on the concept of wellbeing and ensuring democratic participation of its citizens. Complimentary to other regions, the region east could cooperate with the natural heritage initiatives in the region west and pioneer Kosovo wide initiatives. For example: working toward developing attraction points and leading a coordination with other regions, a Kosovo wide hiking and biking as well as horseback / donkey riding routes development could not only make the region an interesting destination but could be appealing for specific interest groups. Good examples of these initiatives by local entrepreneurs already exist in the area and could provide inspiration for further initiatives.

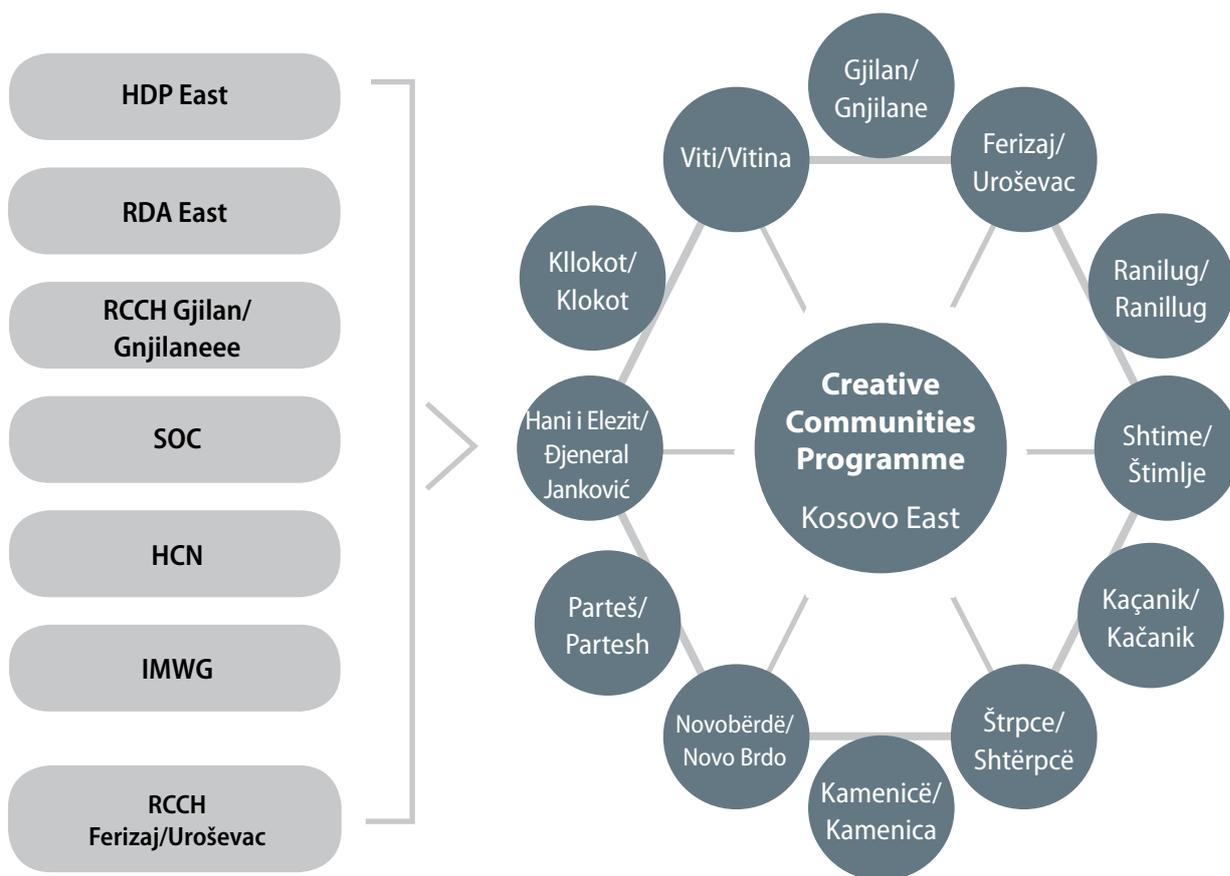
The regional program with the recommended vision could begin with each municipality identifying and designating a site or practice, and integrating all elements of the community based heritage assets that would link the region. The plan encourages communities to focus on heritage assets that have specific meaning to the society and have common value, paying specific attention to its development and management, generating creative initiatives.

With active municipality and communities' involvement, the region could play a crucial role presenting a good practices of an integrated approach, combining elements around its landscape, natural environment, agriculture and intangible heritage practices. While the region uses its local natural resources, it can also utilise built heritage sites for events, bringing meaning to their existence today. Such approach could bring forward the community and heritage-led initiatives under a "regional program", transforming local heritage to economic opportunities for local population keeping the principles of democratic participation in mind.

The regional program with the recommended vision could begin with each municipality identifying and designating an element about health and wellbeing culture and developing the idea around it integrating all elements of the community based heritage categories. This creative process should be inclusive and seek opinion of all to have effective results.

Examples created in the region should integrate all elements as per the Junik model and could inspire similar private and public initiatives in the region. (Please see information on the methodologies developed in the Case study on Urban Rehabilitation – Neighborhood of the Tourism Centre in Junik, Stone that Talk Programme in Junik and the Case study on Integrated Conservation – Conservation Basis for the Historic Centre of Prishtinë/Priština, in Appendix 3).

Integrated Regional Approach through Natural Heritage



5.1. Considerations in conceptualising an integrated approach

- Preserving and protecting the resources:** Development of a plan for the preservation and protection of special places, sites and traditions that attract the local population and a wider range of visitors. The plan should consider the meaning and value of heritage assets to society and should be in accordance with all applicable local and national laws/regulations in line with international standards. It should also be focused on the development of initiatives for landscape protection and development, as well as on the safeguarding of traditional practices and events in line with the interest of the individuals, groups of people or communities in the area.
- Focusing on authenticity of sites, living traditions, expressions and effective presentation:** The contributions of

previous generations and diverse groups shape the history and culture of a place and community today, making it unique and an attraction point for visitors. In order to value the present we must understand our past and find creative and attractive ways to present it in order to build the relationship between places, individuals and communities, as well as with visitors. Authenticity of places, people and their stories distinguishes one from the other and offers distinctive experiences.

- Making the sites come alive with quality of interpretation:** A destination is a place with a story! Using creative methods in interpreting the stories, special cultural sites, traditions, events and personalities, as well as the beauties of the natural environment, make the community or region distinctive. There should be an inclusive approach by respectfully telling the story of all groups that have made contributions to common heritage.

- **Finding the balance between community life, preservation of heritage and tourism development:** A community that values and protects its heritage will contribute to the development of a successful project, with funds, volunteers and political support required. Awareness and knowledge among the community about heritage preservation and tourism opportunities is crucial for sustainable development. The specific value of any given heritage asset to the community should be carefully considered as their well-being should not be sacrificed in the name of preservation of heritage or tourism development. Particular attention should be given to balanced community-oriented programmes for the development of landscapes, in accordance with its importance to the local people. A comprehensive community consultation process is key to an effective dialogue in order to find a balance.
- **Gender mainstreaming:** Mainstreaming gender means ensuring equal opportunities and non-discrimination practices in all policy development and implementation. If gender is mainstreamed, all actions should be planned, implemented, monitored, reported on, and evaluated with a gender perspective in mind. While women represent a strong social link in Kosovo society and play a crucial role in transmitting heritage to younger generations, they have limited recognition in the labour market and decision-making power in policies and community actions. Techniques with a direct positive impact on women at society level such as gender-sensitive project objectives, gender budgeting, a gender impact assessment and gender disaggregated data are the most powerful measures to promote gender equality through actions. Gender mainstreaming and promoting gender equality in heritage-led initiatives should be one of the main considerations, as a sustainable and political goal for cultural rights and democratic participation.
- **Inclusion of marginalised groups / communities:** The presence of diverse groups, irrespective of their number and the length of time spent in the territory, is an asset for society and heritage-led initiatives. Each group / community has its own value systems and unique contributions to the common heritage of a place, and should be able to have its rightful place in all stages from the conceptualisation of actions, taking into consideration their needs, culture, beliefs and ways of living. Marginalisation of groups based on their age, ability, gender, ethnicity, socio-economic background, geographic origin, etc. widens the gap and brings inequality, contributing to tensions between groups. Heritage-led initiatives create constructive platforms and should consider all groups / communities in the territory.
- **Collaborating for sustainability of management:** Preservation of heritage and tourism development demand the participation of numerous individuals and organisations. There is a need to create partnerships to broaden support and the chances for success through, for example, packaging sites and traditional events in the community or region, the promotion of natural beauty where access and infrastructure meet standards, and encouraging cross-promotion with other sites to maximise exposure. These preconditions are crucial for heritage tourism to be a sustainable form of economic development. Collaboration between the central authorities and Regional Centres for Cultural Heritage, as well as the responsible entities for environment/nature protection, academia and educational institutes, is essential. This also encourages heritage owners to understand the importance of working with the local authorities in conservation and safeguarding of heritage resources while developing mechanisms for education and the sustainable management of heritage resources.

5.2. Considerations in planning and designing an integrated approach

A- Assessment of the potential of heritage – determine the current resources using inventories

The goal of the assessment is not just to list resources but to evaluate potential quality and level of services. Creation of inventories is imperative in order to begin with an objective appraisal of assets including existing attractions and events or practices and those with potential for development. Historical importance, physical state of immovable cultural heritage, the traditional heritage elements, the attractions of natural heritage and landscape are essential data for characterising sites, practices and activities in the inventory process. The inventory information helps to identify the overall framework of a heritage development plan.

B- Ensuring ongoing professional development - protection, maintenance and management

Consideration of plans for protection, maintenance and management in order to achieve long term results is one of the important preconditions for developing objectives for actions to be highlighted within the Heritage Plan. Preservation of assets, maintenance of natural heritage and characteristic landscape areas, as well as the safeguarding of traditional practices and stories passed down through generations, are essential issues to be considered for preserving the character of the community and its living environment.

Preservation involves producing “tangible” improvements to historic or natural sites or traditional practices and events, ensuring the protection of all assets and artefacts, and the telling of their story through interpretation.

Research is important to compile and/or update information, which will prove necessary when restoring the structure or traditional practice and interpreting them to the visitors.

As a process of returning the asset to a state of utility through repair or alteration which makes efficient contemporary use without attacking its historic and cultural value, rehabilitation is expected to be considered in the heritage plans. Standards pertain for all types of historic buildings and also encompass related landscape features, the environment and natural heritage sites. The standards are applied to specific rehabilitation projects taking into consideration technical and economic feasibility.

C - Local Economic Development through Heritage Resources and potentials

(Heritage Planning and Creative Industries Development)

Cultural heritage and the creative capacity and inventiveness of the human race have been closely integrated throughout the ages. On the one hand, our most valued heritage has often been the creative output of different cultures over time. On the other hand, cultural heritage has served as an inspiration and resource for artists and craftspeople throughout the world.

Today, creative enterprises are drawing their inspiration from local tangible and intangible heritage, providing employment and support for local economies often in quite remote locations. Such heritage-led initiatives enhance the attractiveness of areas for tourists and highlight the value and diversity of local heritage, while not being necessarily dependent on a local tourism market to sell their products.

D - Increasing Public Awareness and Education

Heritage awareness begins with education. An understanding of what heritage encompasses is essential to the appreciation of the different heritage issues in the region, municipality and among communities.

A successful heritage plan reaches out to the community in order to gain support. In return, heritage knowledge and awareness will be raised, which will then encourage community members to contribute to ongoing heritage efforts. This is a cyclical, ongoing process, as the community grows and new residents want to be involved and learn more about the unique identity of the place in which they are living.

Heritage Education Programmes in schools are not intended only to introduce the importance of heritage to the younger generations but also to raise the overall level of heritage awareness in the community, encouraging respect for diversity and creativ-

“ Heritage awareness begins with education. An understanding of what heritage encompasses is essential to the appreciation of the different heritage issues in the region, municipality and among communities. ”

ity to better express it. Contemporary arts play a powerful role to express heritage, diversity and the multiple identities of heritage where individuals and communities are able to define themselves with the changing reality of the world today.

E - Active community engagement and citizen participation

While the legislative and technical protection measures are regulated by central and local authorities, communities play a crucial role for the planning and management of heritage in their respective regions. Active citizen participation is crucial to understand the meaning of heritage and pay necessary attention to its importance at a local level, where communities have increased appreciation of their common heritage and treat it with care and respect. All planning and design of heritage plans and projects should actively seek community engagement and encourage citizen participation with an inclusive approach.





A tower of Novobërdë/Novo Brdo Castle

06



Bifurcation on Nerodime/Nerodimka River, Ferizaj/Uroševac Municipality

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS



The Feasibility Study recommendations focused on the delivery of the project objectives in relation to cultural diversity, the communal cultural and natural heritage resources, and the potential for heritage-led initiatives and heritage tourism in the region – all integrated with local economic development with focus on tourism whilst taking practical account of available resources, authorities and legislative/other constraints.

The Action Plan that is central to the Heritage Plan focuses on addressing the heritage weaknesses in a manner that recognises the relationship between heritage, community wellbeing and the local economy for improved quality of life and living environment. This includes tourism potentials, and represents a continuation and diversification of actions already completed/facilitated by regional and municipal working groups in the region.

These actions have included:

- The establishment and training of the regional and municipal working groups.
- The overall data collection and validation exercise.
- Heritage data assessment and validation projects in each municipality.
- Pilot projects focusing on cultural events/traditions in each municipality.
- Heritage-led initiatives and tourism demonstration pilot projects.
- Workshop series on heritage

Based on the strategic considerations already outlined, the following are objectives and associated actions planned for the next three years:

Objective 1

To raise awareness and promote appreciation of heritage in Kosovo East

Actions & Potential partners

1.1 Organise on-going data collection and validation of the cultural and natural heritage of the region including the local practices and traditions, sites, moveable heritage and cultural products.

(HDP, CSOs, RCCH, Academia, respective municipalities)

1.2 Organise diverse heritage promotion activities with active community involvement, highlighting the local practices, sites and cultural products in the region

(HDP, Media, CSOs, Practitioners, RCCH, Municipalities, Business community)

1.3 Develop and adopt a joint regional education and awareness-raising strategy with all municipalities involved, including competitions, events and workshops

(HDP, CSOs, Municipalities through municipal Directorates of Education, municipal Offices for Public Information, RDA-East, local schools, Practitioners, Experts in the field of Heritage)

1.4 Promote the Regional Heritage Plan and its implementation results through a number of awareness raising activities working with local, regional and central partners as appropriate.

(HDP, Municipalities, RDA-East)

1.5 Enhance awareness of the integrated approach to heritage among authorities and the general public

(HDP, RCCH)

1.6 Maintain the website promoting the region and ongoing activities

(HDP)

Objective 2

To take necessary measures for the protection of heritage in Kosovo East

Actions & Potential partners

2.1 Ensure ongoing data assessment of heritage

(HDP, CSOs, RCCH, Municipalities)

2.2 Initiate the compilation of an inventory on intangible cultural heritage elements in cooperation with the scientific institutions and/or experts and with participation of the practitioners.

(HDP, CSOs, Municipalities, Owners, Practitioners, Museums)

2.3 Initiate projects for conservation of the archaeological and other heritage artefacts following consultations with central institutions

(MCYS, Institute of Archaeology, Municipalities, RCCH)

2.4 Initiate a rural assessment with particular attention to biodiversity and natural heritage assets, including identification of species of highest conservation concern in the region

(MESP, Municipalities, CSOs, RDA East)

2.5 Carry out an inventory of landscape areas from a heritage perspective

(HDP, MESP, Municipalities, CSOs)

2.6 Create a database for the museums and their collections (movable cultural heritage)

(Museum of Kosovo, Ethnological Institute, local museums in the region east, Municipalities, CSOs)

2.7 Compile a "Heritage at Risk Record" so the actions plans can be developed to safeguard the heritage at risk.

(HDP, CSOs, RCCH, Municipalities)

2.8 Create a map of protected built cultural heritage assets, intangible cultural heritage elements, moveable heritage items and natural heritage sites based on comprehensive study and research

(HDP, RCCH, CSOs, Municipalities)

Objective 3

To develop and encourage thorough assessment, integrated project design and planning with sound heritage management plan in Kosovo East

Actions & Potential partners

3.1 Encourage coordination and cooperation between all heritage and spatial planning agencies, interested bodies and individuals in the region

(HDP, RCCH, CSOs, Municipalities, MESP)

3.2 Utilise the conservation and management tools introduced in the Ljubljana Process of CoE /EU Regional programme, the EU /CoE PCDK project as well the other successfully implemented projects and programmes supported by the respectable international organisations

(HDP, RCCH, Municipalities, MESP)

3.3 Organise regular regional heritage forums to keep all stakeholders updated

(HDP)

3.4 Issue an annual publication 'Our Common Heritage – a Civil Society Review in Kosovo East', sharing research and assessment results

(HDP, Heritage Forum East)

3.5 Provide regular and appropriate access to the selected heritage sites with a tourism perspective, including signage and guidance services.

(RCCH, Municipalities, MCYS, Ministry of Transportation)

Objective 4

To develop and coordinate appropriate heritage management practices in Kosovo East

Actions & Potential partners

4.1 Coordinate annual reviews of the implementation of the Heritage Plan and the preparation of the next Heritage Plan in 2018 for a further 3 year period

(HDP, Heritage Forum East)

4.2 Ensure improved quality services for heritage led initiatives /tourism through professional development

(IMWG, HDP, CSOs, Municipalities)

4.3 Develop tools and mechanism for an integrated approach to rehabilitation of heritage, enterprise/tourism and education programs with multiple partners

(HDP, Municipalities, CSOs, RCCH)

4.4 Plan tailored programmes in light of current and potential tourist flow

(HDP, Municipalities, CSOs, business community)

4.5 Initiate plans for rehabilitation of selected immovable cultural heritage, intangible heritage and natural heritage through active intercultural dialogue among all stakeholders (central and local), including marginalised communities

(Projects operating in the region, RCCH, NGOs, HDP)

4.6. Provide the HDP coordinators with operational financial and political support as well as technical assistance.

(Municipalities, RCCH, MCYS)

Objective 5

Develop locally appropriate and sustainable heritage-led tourism initiatives in Kosovo East

Actions & Potential partners

5.1 Initiate a training programme for local part-time heritage guides in each municipality

(IMWG, HDP)

5.2 Participate in heritage led tourism projects

(HDP, Municipalities, CSOs, Business community)

5.3 Conduct cost/benefit analysis on proposed projects in order to prioritise applications for funding in a coordinated manner

(HDP, RCCH, Municipalities, Research companies)

5.4 Ensure coordinated actions in order to utilise diverse heritage assets and practices spread across the region.

(CSOs, municipalities, HDP, RDA East)

5.5 Improve basic tourism services based on SMEs (family-based businesses)

(Loan companies, banks, municipalities, community members)

5.6 Support intangible cultural heritage practices through responsible application of creative industries – as a link to contemporary arts initiatives / events in the region

(CSOs, artists, municipalities, HDP, business community)

5.7. Together all municipalities in the region to develop a joint regional program, working toward branding the region with its regional logo

(HDP, Municipalities)

The Action Plan will be monitored by the Heritage and Diversity Programme coordinator with the support of participating municipalities of the region.





Saraj of Mustafa Pasha, 1889, Gjilan/Gnjilane town



07

View of Luboten/Ljuboten mountain, Šterpce/Shtërpçë Municipality

THE MUNICIPALITIES OF REGION EAST



While the LDPP Regional Programme has a wider scope in the sphere of economic development, PCDK / LED focuses on heritage-led initiatives in relation to heritage tourism with the principles of democratic participation in the development process. In this capacity, PCDK / LED aims to create conditions to facilitate social cohesion and economic development through utilising the potential of cultural and natural heritage for the region of Kosovo East.

The suggested integrated approach sets a feasible structure, methodology and examples of how, if managed effectively, heritage could be an asset of great benefit to local communities as part of a dynamic social and economic development process.

In preparation for the Regional Heritage Plan, the PCDK project acknowledges the existence of all heritage sites and assets in the region, based on the information provided by local and central authorities and institutions, as well as local communities and CSOs.

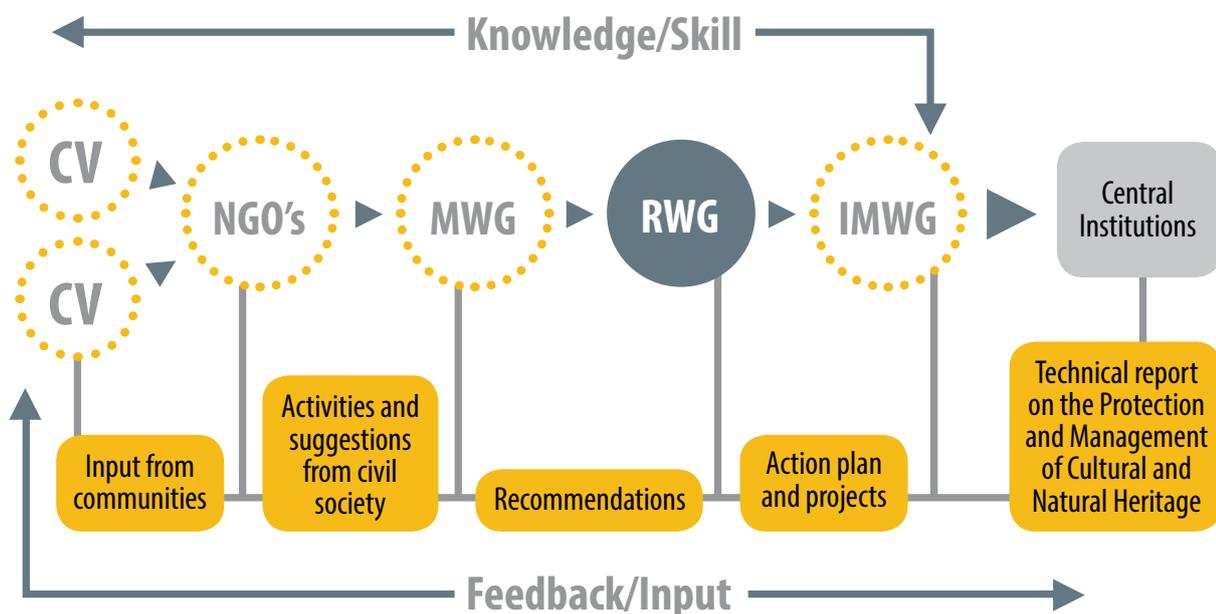
Piloted and recommended actions, however, have focused on attractions and features that are currently accessible and presentable to the general public and visitors for the purpose of heritage tourism.

This chapter has been prepared for stakeholders in the respective municipalities to accompany the Regional Heritage Plan and its recommendations. It encourages the active involvement of local communities and stakeholders in the implementation of priority actions in the respective municipality, in coordination with the five other municipalities in the region, as well as with central authorities.

Suggestions provided are not exhaustive and by no means suggest the exclusion of other initiatives and resources which are detailed in the annexes. The Heritage Plan, offering a viable way forward, encourages the use of these heritage assets in coordination with all stakeholders, taking into account the strategic considerations highlighted in Section 5.

The Heritage Plan is a dynamic process providing a strategic context for community actions with existing resources to ensure the greatest benefit to local communities in the region. It aims to facilitate joint actions in the identification of priorities for the distribution of available funds for the conservation and promotion of heritage, in coordination

with the central government, the municipalities and other interested parties. To ensure active engagement of stakeholders, the PCDK project adopted the following methodology and workflow, ensuring there is continuous feedback and input from communities into policy-making, while regular knowledge and skill transfer is encouraged at the community level.



Involvement in the PCDK project included

- Research on cultural and natural heritage assets and identification of the intangible heritage elements with the participation / contribution of:
 - MCYS – department of Cultural Heritage
 - Regional Center for Cultural Heritage in Gjilan/Gnjilane
 - Regional Center for Cultural Heritage in Ferizaj/Uroševac
 - Municipalities of Region East
 - NGO 'CHWB''
 - Community volunteers
 - Local experts on Natural Heritage
 - Local expert on development of the database application
- Pilot actions with active participation of the communities of the region in presenting and promoting their common intangible heritage elements and practices.
- The workshop series on heritage in processing the plan and establishing platform for co-operation within and between regions.
- Heritage Forum with the participation of all communities, contributing to the development of the Regional Heritage Plan. Inventory of movable heritage assets with participation of representatives of the Regional Center for Cultural Heritage in Gjilan/Gnjilane and Regional Center for Cultural Heritage in Ferizaj/Uroševac
- Development of regional logos.
- Study visits and trainings exposing local stakeholders to good practices and equip them with an understanding and knowledge – base on local economic development processes, community involvement and democratic participation.
- Gatherings of the Heritage Community Network with the involvement of a wide range of individuals and entities who values specific aspects of heritage.

- Awareness raising activities through site visits and training sessions on cultural and natural heritage with participation of:
 - Elementary school teachers
 - Pupils
 - Parents
 - Artisans
 - Elders
 - Local communities
 - Local NGOs

- Recommended immediate actions for the municipalities of the region
-
- Identify areas for development of case studies on heritage
-
- Create a community action group to support the activities on heritage
-
- Discuss possibilities of municipal authorities' involvement
-
- With the endorsement of the municipal authorities, carry out a community consultation process involving community members from the designated area.
-
- Explain the Heritage Plan and the importance of the joint regional action in the context of each respective Kosovo region and the whole of Kosovo.
-
- Together with the communities, develop a common shared vision and an integrated action in line with the recommendations of the Heritage Plan East.
-
- Develop a concept note to be endorsed and supported by the municipal authorities for implementation of the plan
-
- Work together with the HDP coordinator who will assure coordination and cooperation between municipalities and a regional approach.
-
- Seek the support of other organisations that are operating in the region for future implementation.

Ferizaj/Uroševac Municipality

The municipality of Ferizaj/Uroševac is located in south-eastern Kosovo. It covers an area of approximately 345 km² and includes Ferizaj/Uroševac city and 44 villages. Ferizaj/ Uroševac is an important crossroads through which passes the main roads on east-west and north-south of the country. The total population of Ferizaj/Uroševac is 143.842 inhabitants. It is consisted of: Albanians (97%), Roma and Ashkali (2,3 %), Gorani and Bosniaks (0,2%) and Serbs (0,1 %).

Ferizaj/Uroševac was known for metal industry, wood processing industry, food industry and construction. In the recent years, the economy of the municipality is based mainly on agriculture, construction and small businesses.

Tangible heritage

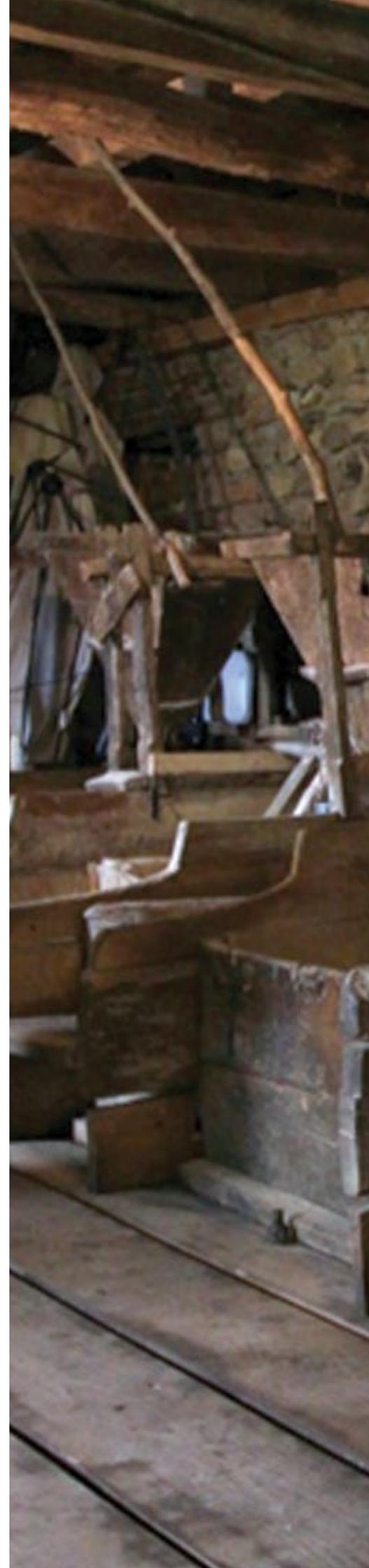
- Archaeological site in Varosh/Varoš, Neolithic Time
- Archaeological site of Nerodime e Postme/Donje Nerodimlje, Roman Time
- Early Christian Church in Nikadin, village Nikadin/Nikodin, Late Antiquity
- Train station, city of Ferizaj/Uroševac, 1873-1875
- Orthodox Church of Holy King Urosh/Uroš, city of Ferizaj/Uroševac, 1933
- The former "Jeronim De Rada" primary school,
- Mulla Veseli ("Grand") Mosque, city of Ferizaj/ Uroševac, 1894
- Public Library "Sadik Tafarshiku", city of Ferizaj/ Uroševac, 1908-1912
- The City Theatre in Ferizaj/Uroševac, 1824-1827
- The Nike's Mill, Nerodime/Nerodimlje village, 19th/20th c.

Natural heritage

- Nerodime/Nerodimka River Bifurcation, village of Nerodime/ Nerodimlje

Intangible heritage

- Plisat (craftsmanship), Ferizaj/Uroševac city
- Blacksmith, Ferizaj/Uroševac city
- Traditional Food (ashure, kaqamak), Ferizaj/Uroševac city





Nika's Mill, near Ferizaj/Uroševac, interior

Recommended priority actions contributing to regional plan and programming

To raise awareness and promote appreciation of heritage in Kosovo East

- Organise neighbourhood / heritage walks to raise awareness among local population, making them familiar with natural and cultural heritage and attractive landscape areas
- Support school-based awareness raising activities on heritage of the municipality
- Organise awareness-raising campaigns on the importance of a well landscaped natural sites;
- Gaining knowledge through collection of data for the priorities in protection and development of heritage and the environment

To take necessary measures for protection of heritage in Kosovo East

- Research and identify traditional practices and other cultural and cultural heritage valuable features in order to make an official list of heritage to be protected and developed with the support of the municipality authorities.
- Map all the built, moveable, intangible and natural heritage assets as well as landscape areas with relevant information and regularly update in cooperation with the responsible entities on local, regional and central level.
- List of the heritage at risk and report to the relevant local entities



Fragment of a frontal side of a marble sarcophagus, Roman time, Nikadin/Nikodim village, Ferizaj/Uroševac Municipality (photo: MCYS)



Ethnological exhibition, Centre of Culture, Ferizaj/Uroševac

To develop and encourage thorough assessment, integrated project design and planning with sound heritage management plan in Kosovo East

- Identify necessary tourism service delivery standards and provide training to local service providers
- Have a clear updated heritage tourism map of the heritage that is ready for visitors.
- Keep regional website regularly updated for others to be informed on upcoming events.
- Provide input to annual regional report on 'Our Common Heritage' in Kosovo East
- Ensure proper signage for sites that are ready for tourism
- Test cultural products and marketing styles in the respective area of work in the region
- Ensure that diverse heritage-led initiatives are diverse, inclusive and distinctive to attract the community members and visitors

To develop and coordinate appropriate management practices for the care of heritage in Kosovo East

- Organise capacity development for increased heritage management skills, including local guides
- Participate in regular meetings / forums to share developments and be informed about the regional programme.
- Increase better management of human resources in protection and development of heritage through vocational trainings.
- Send locally produced brochures and promotional materials to the HDP coordinator.

Develop locally appropriate and sustainable heritage tourism initiatives in Kosovo East

- Identify natural and cultural attractions in the Ferizaj/Uroševac municipality to participate in the regional plan
- Invest in cultural product items based on local cultural heritage practices
- Support Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) initiatives, including Bed & Breakfast
- Prepare Ferizaj/Uroševac to take its place in the Eastern region as a tourism destination of attractive natural heritage sites accompanied by traditional food based on communities' participation.

Tourism development of the "Bifurcation" site on Nerodime/Nerodimka River

The well-known natural phenomenon once appeared on Nerodime/Nerodimka River has already attracted the attention of the relevant entities to invest in its presentation to the wider public. Attractive old mill and surrounding landscape as well as the facility built in the vicinity are very important elements for its development. As the site is under the strategic consideration of the local authorities, it should be carefully developed as an attraction point.

Action: Join the local authorities' campaign related the activities to be taken for returning the "Bifurcation" in its original state; organise forums for development of initiatives and projects for its further development as a place for recreation and cultural events on presentation of traditional food, games and dances .

Partners: Municipality authorities, local stakeholders, business sector, local NGOs, RCCH-Ferizaj/Uroševac and MESP.

Gjilan/Gnjilane Municipality

The municipality of Gjilan/Gnjilane is located in south-eastern Kosovo. It covers an area of approximately 385 km² and includes Gjilan/Gnjilane city and 42 villages. The total population of Gjilan/Gnjilane is 90,178 inhabitants, and it is consisted of: Albanians (97.3%), Serbs (0.69%), Turks (1.08 %), Bosniaks 0.13 %, Roma 0.40%, Ashkali 0.01%, Gorani 0.07%, other 0.10%. The economy is mainly based on small businesses.

The municipality of Gjilan/Gnjilane borders with municipalities of Kamenicë/Kamenica, Novobërdë/Novo Brdo, Ferizaj/Uroševac, Lipjan/Lipjane, Klllokot/Klokot and Partesh/Parteš.

Tangible heritage

- Necropolis of Llashtica, village Llashticë/Lashtice, Late Iron Age
- The Pogragjë/Podgrađe Fortress, village Pogragjë/Podgrađe, 6th c.
- Atik Mosque, city of Gjilan/Gnjilane, 17th c.
- Ruins of the church St. Varvara, village Kmetoc/Kmetovce, 17th c.
- The Inn of Shefki, village Verbice e Zhegocit/Žegovačka Vrbica, 20th c.
- The former Turkish Military Depot, city of Gjilan/Gnjilane, 18th c.
- The kulla of Kadri Vebi Zequiri, village Haxhaj / Hadžaj 20th c.
- The residence of Kajmekamlek (today: headquarters of the Mayor of Gjilan/Gnjilane), city of Gjilan/Gnjilane, 19th c.
- The Saraj of Mustafa pasha (today: Music school), city of Gjilan/Gnjilane, 19th c.
- The Public Technique building, city of Gjilan/Gnjilane, 20th c.
- Fevzi Hoxha's Chamber, village Čërnice/Cernica, 20th c.
- The House of Zekirja Abdullahu, city of Gjilan/Gnjilane, 1884.
- The House of Isak Pozharani, city of Gjilan/Gnjilane, 1908-1913
- The Čërnice's Mosque (minaret), village Čërnice/Cernica, 20th c.

Natural heritage

- Thermo mineral water spring (Uglar Spa), village Uglar/Ugljare.

Intangible heritage

- Traditional food "ashura"
- Traditional artisanship "Shoemaker"





Traditional dish "Ashura"



Karadaku Dance

Recommended priority actions contributing to regional plan and programming

To raise awareness and promote appreciation of heritage in Kosovo East

- Organise neighbourhood / heritage walks to raise awareness among local population, making them familiar with natural and cultural heritage and landscape areas
- Support school-based awareness raising activities on heritage of the municipality
- Organise Awareness-raising campaigns on the importance of a clean environment

To take necessary measures for protection of heritage in Kosovo East

- Research and identify specific traditional practices, natural heritage and landscape areas
- Map all the built, moveable, intangible and natural heritage assets with relevant information and regularly update in cooperation with the relevant entities on local and national level
- Ensure regular waste collection and awareness-raising on the importance of a clean environment
- List the heritage at risk in the municipality and report to the responsible municipality authorities

To develop and encourage thorough assessment, integrated project design and planning with sound heritage management plan in Kosovo East

- Identify necessary tourism service delivery standards and provide training to local service providers
- Have a clear updated heritage tourism map of the assets or landscape and natural heritage areas that are ready for visitors.

- Keep regional website regularly updated for others to be informed on upcoming events.
- Provide input to annual regional report on 'Our Common Heritage' in Kosovo East
- Ensure proper signage for sites that are ready for tourism
- Test cultural products and marketing styles in your respective area of work in the region
- Ensure that diverse heritage-led initiatives are diverse, inclusive and distinctive to attract the community members and visitors

To develop and coordinate appropriate management practices for the care of heritage in Kosovo East

- Organise capacity development for increased heritage management skills, including local guides
- Participate in regular meetings / forums to share developments and be informed about the regional programme
- Send locally produced brochures and promotional materials to the HDP coordinator

Develop locally appropriate and sustainable heritage tourism initiatives in Kosovo East

- Identify natural heritage and landscape areas in the municipality to participate in the regional plan
- Invest in cultural product items based on local cultural heritage practices
- Support Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) initiatives, including Bed & Breakfast
- Make Gjilan/Gnjilane an attractive destination for spa-tourism accompanied by healthy gastronomy and recreational activities.

Revitalisation of Uglar/Ugljare's spring area ("Uglar Spa")

Thermo-mineral spring, located near the banks of Morava e Binqës/Binačka Morava River, has a potential for development of different forms of alternative tourism. The water of the spring is rich in minerals and has constant temperature of about 25 degrees yearlong.

Besides the already undertaken activities for recreation and tourism development of the area with the construction of the swimming pool and the hotel in the immediate vicinity of the spring, there is still a need to continue to invest in its development and to protect the spring which was declared as a natural monument. A particular attention should be given to use of natural materials, possibly away from concrete structures to maintain natural ambiance.

The horse farm in the Gjilan/Gnjilane Municipality could play a leading role to discuss the improvement of farms in the area. In addition, the rich nature of Ashura and events around it could be further attraction.

Action: Project for landscaping and protection of the area around the spring combined with a programme for the use of the spring's water in health purposes. See possibilities of combining Ashura ritual in the area.

Partners: Municipality of Gjilan/Gnjilane, RCCH in Gjilan/Gnjilane, MESP, Regional Development Agency, Tourism and business sectors

Hani i Elezit/ Đeneral Janković Municipality

The municipality of Hani i Elezit/ Đeneral Janković is located in south eastern Kosovo. It covers an area of approximately 83 km² and includes the town of Hani i Elezit/ Đeneral Janković and ten (10) surrounding villages. According to the Kosovo Population and Housing Census 2011 the total population is 9,403. The population is consisted mainly of Albanians (99,5%) and Bosniaks (0,44%).

The economy of the municipality mainly relies on the production of cement, plastic and agricultural products, as well as small trade businesses.

Tangible heritage

- Necropolis of Paldenicë/Palivodenica, Paldenicë/Palivodenica village, Roman Time
- Architectural complex – Bravë/Brava neighborhood, village Puset e Nikës/Pustenik, 20th c.

Natural heritage

- N/A

Intangible heritage

- N/A

Recommended priority actions contributing to regional plan and programming

To raise awareness and promote appreciation of heritage in Kosovo East

- Organise neighbourhood / heritage walks to raise awareness among local population, making them familiar with diverse natural and cultural heritage
- Support school-based awareness raising activities in the municipality
- Organise awareness rising campaigns on the importance of the natural environment and vernacular architecture protection and revitalisation

To take necessary measures for protection of heritage in Kosovo East

- Research and identify practices of traditions, vernacular heritage, natural heritage and landscape areas in Hani i Elezit/ Đeneral Janković
- Map all the built, moveable, intangible and natural heritage with relevant information and regularly update in cooperation with the local, regional and central authorities



A belt made of bronze and decorated with colored glass, Roman necropolis, Paldenicë/ Palivodenica village, Municipality of Hani i Elezit/ Đeneral Janković (photo: MCYS)

- List buildings of vernacular architecture at risk in the municipality and report to the RCCH in Ferizaj/Uroševac region and the municipality's departments for culture and environment

To develop and encourage thorough assessment, integrated project design and planning with sound heritage management plan in Kosovo East

Identify necessary tourism service delivery standards and provide training to local service providers

- Have a clear updated heritage tourism map of the assets that are ready for visitors.
- Keep regional website regularly updated for others to be informed on upcoming events.
- Provide input to annual regional report on 'Our Common Heritage' in Kosovo East
- Ensure proper signage for sites that are ready for tourism
- Test cultural products and marketing styles in your respective area of work in the region
- Ensure that diverse heritage-led initiatives are diverse, inclusive and distinctive to attract the community members and visitors

To develop and coordinate appropriate management practices for the care of heritage in Kosovo East

- Organise capacity development for increased heritage management skills, including local guides
- Participate in regular meetings / forums to share developments and be informed about the regional programme
- Send locally produced brochures and promotional materials to the HDP coordinator

Develop locally appropriate and sustainable heritage tourism initiatives in Kosovo East

- Identify a built/vernacular heritage in the Hani i Elezit/ Đeneral Jankovic municipality to participate in the regional plan
- Invest in cultural product items based on local cultural heritage practices
- Support Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) initiatives, including Bed & Breakfast
- Develop the Municipality of Hani i Elezit/ Đeneral Janković as a rural tourism destination with other recreational activities linked to municipalities of Viti/Vitina and Kačanik/Kaçanik

Rural tourism development

The building complex in Bravë/Brava neighborhood near the village of Puset e Nikës/Pustenik, was recognised as a potential for development of rural tourism considering its traditionally built facilities that associated with the traditional life style of the owners. Located in isolated mountainous area, current condition of this complex could be revitalised and offered as one of the richness of the region with its beautiful natural environment. Gradually, the place could offer various programmes on healing and herbal remedies.

Action: Initiative for making assessment of the condition of the complex to be subject of revitalisation; project development for rehabilitation of the complex for health tourism purposes.

Partners: the owner(s) of the complex, Municipality authorities, tourism agencies, business sector, RCCH-Ferizaj/Uroševac.

Kaçanik/Kaçanik Municipality

The municipality of Kaçanik/Kaçanik is located in south-eastern Kosovo. It covers an area of approximately 210 km² and includes Kaçanik/Kaçanik town and 31 villages. The total population is 33,409 inhabitants, that is consisted of: Albanians (99,8%), Bosniaks (0,05%) and Roma, Turks and Ashkali (0,02%).

The economy of Kaçanik/Kaçanik municipality is mainly based on lime and brick production, construction, agriculture and small trade businesses. There are some 750 registered private businesses operating in the municipality.

Tangible heritage

- Fortress near the village of Lanishtë/Lanište, Late Antique-Early Middle Age
- Castle of Kaçanik/Kaçanik, 1586-1590
- Mosque of Imam Sinan Pasha, city of Kaçanik/Kaçanik 1594/5

Natural heritage

- Gorge of Lepenci/Lepenac river,
- Luboten/Ljuboten mountain peak

Intangible heritage

- Glass holder (known as "Ferash"), Kaçanik/Kaçanik

Recommended priority actions contributing to regional plan and programming

To raise awareness and promote appreciation of heritage in Kosovo East

- Organise neighbourhood / heritage walks to raise awareness among local population, making them familiar with diverse of natural and cultural heritage and attractive landscape areas
- Support school-based awareness raising activities on heritage of the municipality
- Organise campaigns on public awareness for protection and management of heritage for the benefits of the society

To take necessary measures for protection of heritage in Kosovo East

- Research and identify unique traditions, heritage assets and attractive landscape areas in Kaçanik/Kaçanik municipality
- Map all the built, moveable, intangible and natural heritage assets with relevant information and regularly update in cooperation with the responsible entities on local, regional and central level
- Ensure regular waste collection and awareness-raising on the importance of a clean environment and nature
- List the heritage at risk in the municipality and report to the RCCH Ferizaj/Uroševac region and the municipality of Kaçanik/Kaçanik authorities.



Sinan Pasha Mosque in Kačanik/Kaçanik



Lepenc/Lepenac River George, Kaçanik/Kaçanik Municipality

To develop and encourage thorough assessment, integrated project design and planning with sound heritage management plan in Kosovo East

- Identify necessary tourism service delivery standards and provide training to local service providers
- Have a clear updated heritage tourism map of all assets or natural sites that are ready for visitors.
- Keep regional website regularly updated for others to be informed on upcoming events.
- Provide input to annual regional report on 'Our Common Heritage' in Kosovo East
- Ensure proper signage for sites that are ready for tourism
- Test cultural products and marketing styles in your respective area of work in the region
- Ensure that diverse heritage-led initiatives are diverse, inclusive and distinctive to attract the community members and visitors

To develop and coordinate appropriate management practices for the care of heritage in Kosovo East

- Organise capacity development for increased heritage management skills, including local guides
- Participate in regular meetings / forums to share developments and be informed about the regional programme
- Send locally produced brochures and promotional materials to the HDP coordinator

Develop locally appropriate and sustainable heritage tourism initiatives in Kosovo East



- Identify built and natural heritage in the Kaçanik/Kaçanik municipality to participate in the regional plan
- Invest in cultural product items based on local cultural heritage practices
- Support Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) initiatives, including Bed & Breakfast
- Prepare Kaçanik/Kaçanik to take its place in the eastern region as a tourism destination for open air activities in natural environment accompanied by other cultural events and traditional food offers.

Walking tour in the Gorge of Lepenci/Lepenac River (Kaçanik/Kaçanik Gorge)

Kaçanik/Kaçanik Gorge was formed by the Lepenci/Lepenac River in the area between Sharri/Šar and Karadaku mountains, making a natural link of 17.5km between Kosovo and the city of Skopje (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). Natural beauty of the Gorge which in some parts is accessible by tourists with adventurous spirit, could initiate organisation of tours across the borders through the gorge. Services provided by the active railway line that passes through the gorge and connects the two countries may also be used for additional activities on the route.

Action: Initiative for development of a walking tour through the Kaçanik/Kaçanik Gorge; research the possibilities how the railway line could be used for additional (cultural) activities, such as: traditional lunch offer/refreshment offer for tourists participate in the tour on the train or at one of the railway stops, etc.

Partners: Municipality, tourism agencies, local community stakeholders

Kamenicë/Kamenica Municipality

The municipality of Kamenicë/Kamenica is located in the eastern part of Kosovo. It covers an area of approximately 423 km² and includes Kamenicë/Kamenica town and 56 villages. The estimated total population (2009) is 36,085. The ethnical composition of the municipality is: Albanians (94,7%), Serbs (4,3%), Roma (0,6%), Gorani (0,08%), Bosniaks, Turks and others (0,07%).

The economy of the municipality of Kamenicë/Kamenica is mainly based on bricks and beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) production and small businesses.

Tangible heritage

- Topanicë/Topanica Fortress, near Popovicë/Popovica, Late Antique - Early Middle Ages
- Fortress of Kamenicë/Kamenica, Late Antique/Hellenistic period
- Church of Presentation of the Holy Virgin into the Temple, village Vaganesh/Vaganeš, 1354
- Monastery of Temnicë/Tamnica (Prison), village Hajnoc/Donji Ajnovci, 14th c.
- Ruins of the Monastery of Holy Virgin in Rëgjac/Rdjavac (Ubozac), village of Moçar / Moçar, 16th c.
- The tekke of Shejh Zenel Abedin, village of Topanicë/Topanica, 18th c.
- Monastery Draganac, village Dragancë/Draganac, 1888

Natural heritage

- N/A

Intangible heritage

- N/A

Recommended priority actions contributing to regional plan and programming

To raise awareness and promote appreciation of heritage in Kosovo East

- Organise neighbourhood / heritage walks to raise awareness among local population, making them become familiar with natural and cultural heritage
- Support school-based awareness raising activities in the municipality
- Organise awareness-raising campaigns on the importance of dialogue for integration of different ethnicities in protection and using of their common heritage

To take necessary measures for protection of heritage in Kosovo East

- Research and identify unique practices of traditions, natural heritage and attractive landscape areas in Kamenicë/Kamenica
- Map all the built, moveable, intangible and natural heritage and landscape areas with relevant information and regularly update in cooperation with the local, regional and central authorities
- List the heritage at risk and report to the RCCH Gjilan/Gnjilane region and to the responsible municipality authorities

To develop and encourage thorough assessment, integrated project design and planning with sound heritage management plan in Kosovo East

- Identify necessary tourism service delivery standards and provide training to local service providers
- Have a clear updated heritage tourism map of the assets or natural monuments and

landscape areas that are ready for visitors.

- Keep regional website regularly updated for others to be informed on upcoming events.
- Provide input to annual regional report on 'Our Common Heritage' in Kosovo East
- Ensure proper signage for sites that are ready for tourism
- Test cultural products and marketing styles in your respective area of work in the region
- Ensure that diverse heritage-led initiatives are diverse, inclusive and distinctive to attract the community members and visitors

To develop and coordinate appropriate management practices for the care of heritage in Kosovo East

- Organise capacity development for increased heritage management skills, including local guides
- Participate in regular meetings / forums to share developments and be informed about the regional programme
- Send locally produced brochures and promotional materials to the HDP coordinator

Develop locally appropriate and sustainable heritage tourism initiatives in Kosovo East

- Identify historical and natural heritage in the Kamenicë/Kamenica municipality to participate in the regional plan
- Invest in cultural product items based on local cultural heritage practices
- Support Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) initiatives, including Bed & Breakfast
- Develop Kamenicë/Kamenica as a destination of special tourism offer which includes religious monuments and their natural environment in cooperation with other municipalities of the region

Religious / spiritual tourism development

Several monasteries and churches located in the picturesque natural environment indicate an evidence that once this area was a destination of many pilgrims. It is also known that some of these Orthodox shrines were frequently visited by the local population of different religious background. Significant activities carried out by the local inhabitants in revitalisation of the structures and in construction of new facilities for the visitors just outside the monastery complexes (for ex.- Draganac Monastery), could be a good base for development of a religious tourism.

Action: Initiative for development of a special tourism offer/ tourism destination to the historic monuments; action plan for design and implementation of specific projects; organisation of meetings/forums for common actions to be carried out by the interested parties

Partners: Municipality authorities, Monastery (Orthodox Church) authorities, RCCH Gjilan/Gnjilane, Tourism agencies, community stakeholders



Draganac Monastery Church of Holy Archangels, 19th c., the iconostasis, Kamenicë/Kamenica Municipality

Kllokot/Klokot Municipality

The municipality of Kllokot/Klokot is located in south-eastern Kosovo. It covers an area of approximately 24 km² and includes Kllokot/Klokot town and 3 villages. The total population is 2,556. The ethnic composition of this municipality is: Albanian (53%), Serbian (46%), Roma (0,3%), Other (0,3%).The economy of the municipality of Kllokot/Klokot is mainly based on natural resources (mineral water), tourism (two private spas), agriculture and small businesses.

Tangible heritage

- Archeological site of Vërban/Vrbane, Roman period

Natural heritage

- Thermo mineral water spring (Kllokot/Klokot spa)

Intangible heritage

- N/A

Recommended priority actions contributing to regional plan and programming

To raise awareness and promote appreciation of heritage in Kosovo East

- Organise neighbourhood / heritage walks to raise awareness among local population, making them become familiar with diverse concepts of heritage including community life itself.
- Support school-based awareness raising activities in the municipality
- Utilise the regional logo for branding
- Ensure regular waste collection and awareness-raising on the importance of a clean environment

To take necessary measures for protection of heritage in Kosovo East

- Research and identify unique practices of traditions, games and heritage in Kllokot/Klokot in order to document these according to guidelines
- Map all the built, moveable, intangible and natural heritage assets with relevant information and regularly update the central authorities
- List the buildings at risk in the municipality and report to the RCCH Gjilan/Gnjilane region and the municipality

To develop and encourage thorough assessment, integrated project design and planning with sound heritage management plan in Kosovo East

- Identify necessary tourism service delivery standards and provide training to local service providers
- Have a clear updated heritage tourism map of all assets that are ready for visitors.
- Keep regional website regularly updated for others to be informed on upcoming events.
- Provide input to annual regional report on 'Our Common Heritage' in Kosovo East
- Ensure proper signage for sites that are ready for tourism

- Test cultural products and marketing styles in your respective area of work in the region
- Ensure that diverse heritage-led initiatives are diverse, inclusive and distinctive to attract the community members and visitors

To develop and coordinate appropriate management practices for the care of heritage in Kosovo East

- Organise capacity development for increased heritage management skills, including local guides
- Participate in regular meetings / forums to share developments and be informed about the regional programme
- Send locally produced brochures and promotional materials to the HDP coordinator

Develop locally appropriate and sustainable heritage tourism initiatives in Kosovo East

- Identify a built heritage in the Kllokot/Klokot municipality to participate in the regional plan
- Invest in cultural product items based on local cultural heritage practices
- Support Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) initiatives, including Bed & Breakfast
- Develop Kllokot/Klokot as a tourist destination for health and wellbeing (spa tourism)



A bust of a noble woman, Roman time, village of Vërban/Vrban, Kllokot/Klokot Municipality (photo: MCYS)

Development of spa tourism

Kllokot / Klokot spa has several springs of thermal-mineral water with the temperature of 16 to 32 degrees. The water is very useful for the treatment of health problems: rheumatism, problems of the nervous or cardiovascular systems, etc. The area around the spa is already developed with local restaurants and hotels which offer hospitality services for the tourists. As the municipal plans envisage creating additional areas for different purposes regarding the fulfilment of the elementary functions of the Kllokot / Klokot Spa, it would be advisable these developments are carried out in close coordination with the other municipalities in this region to harmonise actions under the heritage plan recommendations and complement each other.

Action: Initiatives for development of cultural events and other recreational activities in the area integrated with the health programmes of the spa.

Partners: Municipality authorities, NGOs, business sector, tourism agencies

Novobërdë/Novo Brdo Municipality

The municipality of Novobërdë/Novo Brdo is located in central Kosovo. It covers an area of approximately 204 km² and includes Novobërdë/Novo Brdo town and 31 villages with 6,729 inhabitants. The majority of population is Albanian (52%), Serbian (46%), Roma (0,9%), Turks (0,1%) Bosnian (0,07%), Ashkali (0,04%), other and not specified (0,07%).

The economy of the municipality of Novobërdë/Novo Brdo is mainly based on agriculture, rural tourism and small trade businesses.

Tangible heritage

- Castle of Novobrdë/Novo Brdo, 14th c.
- Church of St. Nicholas (in ruins), Novobërdë/Novo Brdo fortified town, 14th c.
- The Catholic (Cathedral)/"Sass" church, Novobërdë/Novo Brdo fortified town, 15th c.
- Church of Holy Mother of God, village of Vaganesh/Vaganeš, 1354/55
- Holy Mother of God Church, village of Bostan/Bostane, 19th c.

Natural heritage

- Landscape of the area of Novëbërdë/Novo Brdo Fortress

Intangible heritage

- Celebration of Saint George's day

Recommended priority actions contributing to regional plan and programming

To raise awareness and promote appreciation of heritage in Kosovo East

- Organise neighbourhood / heritage walks to raise awareness among local population, making them familiar with diverse natural and cultural heritage
- Support school-based awareness raising activities in the municipality
- Organise awareness rising campaigns on the importance of a clean environment

To take necessary measures for protection of heritage in Kosovo East

- Research and identify unique practices of traditions, cultural heritage assets, natural monuments and landscape areas in





Novobërdë/Novo Brdo area with a view to the castle

Novobërdë/Novo Brdo

- Map all the built, moveable, intangible and natural heritage assets with relevant information and regularly update in cooperation with the local, regional and central authorities
- List the heritage at risk in the municipality and report to the RCCH Gjilan/Gnjilane region and the municipality's departments for culture and environment

To develop and encourage thorough assessment, integrated project design and planning with sound heritage management plan in Kosovo East

- Identify necessary tourism service delivery standards and provide training to local service providers
- Have a clear updated heritage tourism map of the assets and/or natural heritage and landscape areas that are ready for visitors.
- Keep regional website regularly updated for others to be informed on upcoming events.
- Provide input to annual regional report on 'Our Common Heritage' in Kosovo East
- Ensure proper signage for sites that are ready for tourism
- Test cultural products and marketing styles in your respective area of work in the region
- Ensure that diverse heritage-led initiatives are diverse, inclusive and distinctive to attract the community members and visitors

To develop and coordinate appropriate management practices for the care of heritage in Kosovo East

- Organise capacity development for increased heritage management skills, including local guides
- Participate in regular meetings / forums to share developments and be informed about the regional programme
- Send locally produced brochures and promotional materials to the HDP coordinator

Develop locally appropriate and sustainable heritage tourism initiatives in Kosovo East

- Identify natural heritage and landscape areas in the Novobërdë/Novo Brdo municipality to participate in the regional plan
- Invest in cultural product items based on local cultural heritage practices
- Support Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) initiatives, including Bed & Breakfast
- Develop Novobërdë/Novo Brdo as a tourism destination offering daily tours around the well-known archaeological site combined with activities that include participation in educational and recreational activities as well as experiencing the local cuisine.

A day in Novobërdë/Novo Brdo

Development of a rich programme that combines recreational, educational activities and traditional local tastes.

In addition to the attractiveness of the Novobërdë/Novo Brdo medieval fortified mining centre which immediate environment was recently landscaped for better presentation, the family businesses that offer different local dishes could be undertaken by the community.

Action: Revitalisation of the programme for family business on local dishes including rose soup and herbal teas as well as other products with local natural elements, combined with activities for a rich day trip.

Partners: Municipality authorities, community members, NGO's, tourism agencies, business sector.



Remains of Novobërdë/Novo Brdo Castle

Parteš/Partesh Municipality

The municipality of Parteš/Partesh is located in the eastern part of Kosovo. It covers an area of approximately 18.3 km² and includes Parteš / Partesh town and two villages. The total population of this municipality is 1,787 inhabitants. The population is of Serbian ethnicity.

The economy of the municipality of Parteš / Partesh is mainly based on dairy (milk and cheese) production and small trade businesses.

Tangible heritage

- The ruins of the Paleo-Christian church in Budrigë/Budrika, Medieval period
- Church of Transformation in Pasjan/Pasjane, 19th c.

Natural heritage

- N/A

Intangible heritage

- N/A

Recommended priority actions contributing to regional plan and programming

To raise awareness and promote appreciation of heritage in Kosovo East

- Organise neighbourhood / heritage walks to raise awareness among local population, making them familiar with diverse heritage.
- Support school-based awareness raising activities in the municipality
- Organise awareness raising campaigns on the importance of agriculture in tourism development

To take necessary measures for protection of heritage in Kosovo East

- Research and identify unique practices of traditions, heritage assets, natural sites and landscape areas
- Map all the built, moveable, intangible and natural heritage assets with relevant information and regularly update in cooperation with local, regional and central authorities
- List the heritage at risk in the municipality and report to the RCCH Gjilan/Gnjilane region and the municipality's departments for culture and agriculture

To develop and encourage thorough assessment, integrated project design and planning with sound heritage management plan in Kosovo East

- Identify necessary tourism service delivery standards and provide training to local service providers
- Have a clear updated heritage tourism map of all assets that are ready for visitors.
- Keep regional website regularly updated for others to be informed on upcoming events.
- Provide input to annual regional report on 'Our Common Heritage' in Kosovo East
- Ensure proper signage for sites that are ready for tourism
- Test cultural products and marketing styles in your respective area of work in the region

- Ensure that diverse heritage-led initiatives are diverse, inclusive and distinctive to attract the community members and visitors

To develop and coordinate appropriate management practices for the care of heritage in Kosovo East

- Organise capacity development for increased heritage management skills, including local guides
- Participate in regular meetings / forums to share developments and be informed about the regional programme
- Send locally produced brochures and promotional materials to the HDP coordinator

Develop locally appropriate and sustainable heritage tourism initiatives in Kosovo East

- Identify an agriculture heritage in the Parteš/Partesh municipality to participate in the regional plan
- Invest in cultural (agricultural) product items based on local cultural heritage practices, such as traditional
- Support Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) initiatives, including Bed & Breakfast
- Develop Parteš / Partesh as agro-tourism destination



"Transfiguration Church" in Parteš / Partesh

Development of Agro-tourism

Offering experience on a farm and enjoy various and abundant domestic products and specialties.

Action: Making a survey on the agricultural production as potential for agro-tourism development; consultation meetings (campaigns) with the local inhabitants to express willingness for promotion of specific agricultural products, traditional food and accommodation services under regulated conditions.

Partners: Municipality authorities, local inhabitants, business sector, NGOs, Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development (MARD).

Ranilug/Ranillug Municipality

The municipality of Ranilug/Ranillug is located in eastern Kosovo. It covers an area of 77,62 km² and includes Ranillug/Ranilug town and 12 villages. The total population is 3,866. The majority of population is Serbian (95,4%), Albanian (4,2%), and other (0,2%).

The economy of the municipality of Ranilug/Ranillug is mainly based on dairy (milk and cheese) production and small businesses.

Tangible heritage

- N/A

Natural heritage

- N/A

Intangible heritage

- N/A

Recommended priority actions contributing to regional plan and programming

To raise awareness and promote appreciation of heritage in Kosovo East

- Organise neighbourhood / heritage walks to raise awareness among local population, making them familiar with diverse of heritage
- Support school-based awareness raising activities in the municipality
- Organise awareness rising campaigns on the importance of the agriculture in tourism development

To take necessary measures for protection of heritage in Kosovo East

- Research and identify unique practices of traditions, agricultural equipment and/or natural sites in Ranilug/Ranillug
- Map all the built, moveable, intangible and natural heritage assets with relevant information and regularly update in cooperation with local, regional and central authorities
- List the buildings and/or agricultural heritage at risk in the municipality and report to the RCCH Gjilan/Gnjilane region and the municipality's departments of culture and agriculture

To develop and encourage thorough assessment, integrated project design and planning with sound heritage management plan in Kosovo East

- Identify necessary tourism service delivery standards and provide training to local service providers
- Have a clear updated heritage tourism map of the assets and agricultural heritage that are ready for visitors.
- Keep regional website regularly updated for others to be informed on upcoming events.
- Provide input to annual regional report on 'Our Common Heritage' in Kosovo East
- Ensure proper signage for sites that are ready for tourism

- Test cultural products and marketing styles in your respective area of work in the region
- Ensure that diverse heritage-led initiatives are diverse, inclusive and distinctive to attract the community members and visitors

To develop and coordinate appropriate management practices for the care of heritage in Kosovo East

- Organise capacity development for increased heritage management skills, including local guides
- Participate in regular meetings / forums to share developments and be informed about the regional programme
- Send locally produced brochures and promotional materials to the HDP coordinator

Develop locally appropriate and sustainable heritage tourism initiatives in Kosovo East

- Identify a built and agricultural heritage in the Ranilug/Ranillug municipality to participate in the regional plan
- Invest in cultural product items based on local cultural heritage practices
- Support Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) initiatives, including Bed & Breakfast
- Develop Ranilug/Ranillug as a rural tourism destination

Programme on traditional festivals

Festivals “Morava flows into the song” organized in early May in Ranilug/Ranillug and “Vidovdan games” organized in June in Ropotovo are important events for the local communities. Incorporating these cultural attractions in the regional map of cultural events could compliment rural tourism development of this area.

Action: Initiative for integration of the festival days in the cultural and tourism map of the region; design a programme for promotion of the events as well as for providing appropriate tourism services and stimulant for the local inhabitants participated.

Partners: Municipality authorities, NGOs, local stakeholders, business sector, tourism agencies.

Štrpce/Shtërpçë Municipality

The municipality of Štrpce/Shtërpçë is located in the south eastern part of Kosovo. It covers an area of approximately 247 km² and includes Štrpce/Shtërpçë town and 16 villages. The total population is 6,949 inhabitants. The ethnic composition is: Serbs (54%), Albanians (45%) Roma (0,34%), Bosniaks, Ashkali and others (0,14%).

The economy of the municipality of Shtërpçë/Šterpce is mainly based on agriculture (predominantly raspberry production), tourism and small businesses.

Tangible heritage

- Church of St. Nicholas, Štrpce/Shtërpçë town, 19th c.

Natural heritage

- National Park Sharri/Šar
- Complex Resort Brezovicë/Brezovica,
- Livadicë/Livadica and Jazhinca/Jažince Lakes

Intangible heritage

- N/A

Recommended priority actions contributing to regional plan and programming

To raise awareness and promote appreciation of heritage in Kosovo East

- Organise neighbourhood / heritage walks to raise awareness among local population, making them familiar with diverse natural and cultural heritage and landscape.
- Support school-based awareness raising activities in the municipality
- Organize awareness-raising campaigns on the importance of common initiatives and actions of different ethnic groups in economic development through heritage

To take necessary measures for protection of heritage in Kosovo East

- Research and identify unique practices of traditions, games and heritage in Štrpce/Shtërpçë in order to document these according to guidelines
- Map all the built, moveable, intangible and natural heritage with relevant information and regularly update the central authorities
- List the heritage at risk in the municipality and report to the RCCH Ferizaj/Uroševac region and the municipality's departments for culture and environment

To develop and encourage thorough assessment, integrated project design and planning with sound heritage management plan in Kosovo East

- Identify necessary tourism service delivery standards and provide training to local service providers
- Have a clear updated heritage tourism map of the assets or landscape and natural sites that are ready for visitors.
- Keep regional website regularly updated for others to be informed on upcoming events.
- Provide input to annual regional report on 'Our Common Heritage' in Kosovo East

- Ensure proper signage for sites that are ready for tourism
- Test cultural products and marketing styles in your respective area of work in the region
- Ensure that diverse heritage-led initiatives are diverse, inclusive and distinctive to attract the community members and visitors

To develop and coordinate appropriate management practices for the care of heritage in Kosovo East

- Organise capacity development for increased heritage management skills, including local guides
- Participate in regular meetings / forums to share developments and be informed about the regional programme
- Send locally produced brochures and promotional materials to the HDP coordinator

Develop locally appropriate and sustainable heritage tourism initiatives in Kosovo East

- Identify cultural heritage and potential of natural environment in the Šterpce/Shtërpçë municipality to participate in the regional plan
- Invest in cultural product items based on local cultural heritage practices
- Support Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) initiatives, including Bed & Breakfast
- Develop Šterpce/Shtërpçë as a tourism destination for summer and winter sports combined with plants' collecting tours

Mountain tourism and plant collection

Favorable geographical position of Brezovicë/Brezovica resort, located in the area of Sharr/Šar National Park, and its slopes suitable for winter sports has enabled to become one of the biggest tourism centres in Kosovo. Diversity of endemic plants of the Sharr/Šar Mountain was also recognised as an important resource for development. Using these natural resources creative elements of gastronomy could enrich the cuisine in Kosovo and offer variety of products. Creation of paths for nature walks, hiking and biking including snow shoeing, connected to other regions should be explored.

Action: Join the activities carried out by the authorities for further development of Brezovicë/Brezovica ski resort for recreation as well development of B&B services in rural villages and a programme with an action plan for collecting medicinal plant and wild fruits.

Partners: Municipality authorities, local inhabitants, business sector, tourism agencies, local NGOs

Shtime/Štimlje Municipality

The municipality of Shtime/Štimlje is located in south-eastern Kosovo and included in the Kosovo East as per the regional development agency coverage. . It covers an area of approximately 134 km² and includes Shtime/Štimlje town and 22 villages. According to the Kosovo Population and Housing Census 2011 the total population is 27,342. The majority of population is Albanian with 96,7%, then Ashkali 2,7%, and Other 0,6% (Serbian, Roma, Bosniaks, Gorani & Turks).

The economy of the municipality of Shtime/Štimlje is mainly based on agriculture. There are some 720 registered private businesses operating in the municipality.

Tangible heritage

- Kulla of Fejzullahu family, village Zotaj/Vojnovce, 19th c.
- The mosque in the village Zotaj/Vojnovce, 19th c.
- The mosque of Shtime/Štimlje, 17th c.
- The mosque in the village Reçak/Račak, 20th c.
- The spring of Xhem Osmani in the village Reçak/Račak
- The mosque in the village Petërshticë/ Petraštica, 20th c.
- The mosque in the village Gjurkoc / Đurkovce, 20th c.
- The ruins of the church in Reçak/Račak, Medieval period
- The ruins of the church in Petrovë/Petrovo, Medieval period

Natural heritage

- N/A

Intangible heritage

- N/A

Recommended priority actions contributing to regional plan and programming

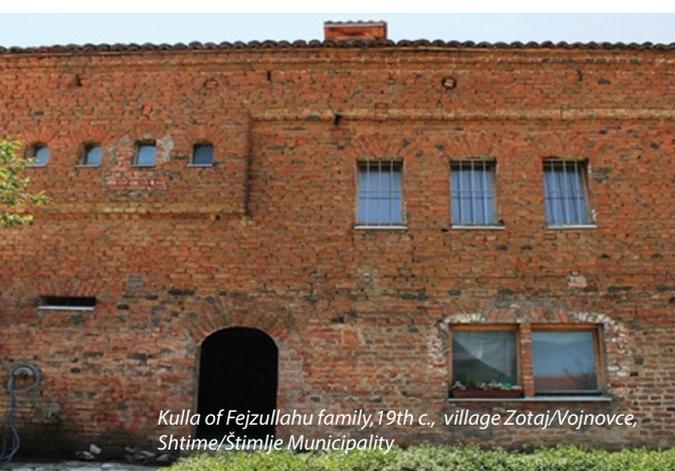
To raise awareness and promote appreciation of heritage in Kosovo East

- Organise neighbourhood / heritage walks to raise awareness among local population, making them become familiar with diverse concepts of heritage including community life itself.
- Support school-based awareness raising activities in the municipality

- Utilise the regional logo for branding
- Ensure regular waste collection and awareness-raising on the importance of a clean environment

To take necessary measures for protection of heritage in Kosovo East

- Research and identify unique practices of traditions, games and heritage in Shtime/Štimlje in order to document these according to guidelines
- Map all the built, moveable, intangible and natural heritage assets with relevant information and regularly update the central authorities



Kulla of Fejzullahu family, 19th c., village Zotaj/Vojnovce, Shtime/Štimlje Municipality

- List the buildings at risk in the municipality and report to the RCCH Ferizaj/Uroševac region and the municipality

To develop and encourage thorough assessment, integrated project design and planning with sound heritage management plan in Kosovo East

- Identify necessary tourism service delivery standards and provide training to local service providers
- Have a clear updated heritage tourism map of all assets that are ready for visitors.
- Keep regional website regularly updated for others to be informed on upcoming events.
- Provide input to annual regional report on 'Our Common Heritage' in Kosovo East
- Ensure proper signage for sites that are ready for tourism
- Test cultural products and marketing styles in your respective area of work in the region
- Ensure that diverse heritage-led initiatives are diverse, inclusive and distinctive to attract the community members and visitors

To develop and coordinate appropriate management practices for the care of heritage in Kosovo East

- Organise capacity development for increased heritage management skills, including local guides
- Participate in regular meetings / forums to share developments and be informed about the regional programme
- Send locally produced brochures and promotional materials to the HDP coordinator

Develop locally appropriate and sustainable heritage tourism initiatives in Kosovo East

- Identify a built heritage in the Shtime/Štimlje municipality to participate in the regional plan
- Invest in cultural product items based on local cultural heritage practices
- Further study agricultural products and opportunities in the area, to develop an overall strategy of the region.
- Develop Shtime/Štimlje as an agro-tourism destination with other recreational activities linked to other municipalities of the region.

Agro-business and creative industries

There have been recent developments in Shtime/Štimlje municipality regarding agro-business center opening and cooperation with other municipalities. As the agriculture is very close to community life in the municipality, combination of agricultural products through creative and cultural events could be an additional work that is being carried on. In the region their efforts could be combined with Viti/Vitina and Partesh/Parteš Municipalities where programmes could be introduced to further the activities beyond production and collection centers but also align with the recommendations of the heritage plan.

Action: Contact the agro-business center and local producers. Seek ways to have visitors taking part of the production and degustation process in attractive environment. Cooperate with the municipalities mentioned above to better coordinate in participating in the regional program.

Partners: Local farmers, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Agro-Business Center, Municipalities of Shtime/Štimlje, Viti/Vitina & Parteš/Partesh.

Viti/Vitina Municipality

The municipality of Viti/Vitina is located in south-eastern Kosovo. It covers an area of approximately 276 km² and includes Viti/Vitina town and 38 villages. According to the Kosovo Population and Housing Census (2011) the total population is 46,987 inhabitants. The population is consisted of: Albanians (99,3%), Serbs (0,24%), Bosniaks (0,05%), Ashkali (0,02%), Roma (0,02%), and others (0,20%).

The economy of Viti/Vitina municipality is mainly based on agriculture and small trade businesses.

Tangible heritage

- Archaeological site of Vërban/Verbane, village Vërban/Verbane, Roman Time
- Monastery of Binçë/Binac, village Buzovik, 14th c.
- The Mosque in Upper Slatinë/Slatina, 20th c.
- The first Albanian School in Kosovo – the Church of St. /George, village Upper Stubëll/Stubla, 19th c.

Natural heritage

- River Morava spring

Intangible heritage

- N/A

Recommended priority actions contributing to regional plan and programming

To raise awareness and promote appreciation of heritage in Kosovo East

- Organise neighbourhood / heritage walks to raise awareness among local population, making them become familiar with diverse concepts of heritage including community life itself.
- Support school-based awareness raising activities in the municipality
- Organise awareness rising campaigns on the importance of the natural environment and vernacular architecture protection and revitalisation

To take necessary measures for protection of heritage in Kosovo East

- Research and identify practices of traditions, vernacular heritage, natural heritage and landscape areas in Viti/Vitina
- Map all the built, moveable, intangible and natural heritage with relevant information and regularly update in cooperation with the local, regional and central authorities
- List buildings of vernacular architecture at risk in the municipality and report to the RCCH Ferizaj/Uroševac region and the municipality's departments for culture and environment

To develop and encourage thorough assessment, integrated project design and planning with sound heritage management plan in Kosovo East

- Identify necessary tourism service delivery standards and provide training to local service providers
- Have a clear updated heritage tourism map of all assets that are ready for visitors.
- Keep regional website regularly updated for others to be informed on upcoming events.
- Provide input to annual regional report on 'Our Common Heritage' in Kosovo East
- Ensure proper signage for sites that are ready for tourism
- Test cultural products and marketing styles in your respective area of work in the region
- Ensure that diverse heritage-led initiatives are diverse, inclusive and distinctive to attract the community members and visitors

To develop and coordinate appropriate management practices for the care of heritage in Kosovo East

- Organise capacity development for increased heritage management skills, including local guides
- Participate in regular meetings / forums to share developments and be informed about the regional programme
- Send locally produced brochures and promotional materials to the HDP coordinator

Develop locally appropriate and sustainable heritage tourism initiatives in Kosovo East

- Identify a built (vernacular architecture) heritage in the Viti/Vitina municipality to participate in the regional plan
- Invest in cultural product items based on local cultural heritage practices
- Support Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) initiatives, including Bed & Breakfast
- Develop Viti/Vitina as a rural tourism destination with other recreational activities linked to other municipalities of the region.

Rural tourism and agricultural products development – link between the activities proposed for the Municipalities of Hani i Elezit/ Đeneral Janković and Kačanik/Kaçanik

Tourism promotion of the municipality through agricultural products and traditional food to be offered during the tourism tour that connects the territories of the three municipalities.

Action: Research/assessment of the capacity of agriculture business to be included in the tourism programme indicated for the two municipalities; communities of the municipalities consultation meetings/forums with the members of the communities of the two mentioned municipalities to draft a strategy for common presentation on the market in the context of tourism development.

Partners: representatives of the communities in these three municipalities; business sector, municipality authorities, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), NGOs

08

Landscape area of Kllokot/Klokot Spa



HERITAGE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION GOING FORWARD



The ongoing implementation of the Regional Heritage Plan is an essential part of the process and active involvement of local stakeholders will play a crucial role for its effectiveness.

Since the Heritage Plan process has been tested and proved to be functioning well in Kosovo West, the linkage between regions, looking into best practices of Kosovo West in particular, is essential for the implementation. In addition, it is hoped that the professional relationships established with the Irish Heritage Council, the Regional Natural Park of Vosges North in France and the Balkan Heritage Foundation in Bulgaria may assist professional exchanges during the implementation phase in the upcoming period. In addition, the participating countries in the Council of Europe LDPP regional programme remain part of the network that allows exchanges between ongoing projects.

To coordinate the process a Heritage and Diversity Programme (HDP) Coordinator has been recruited for each region. They will facilitate, coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Heritage Plan, which offers possible regional initiatives with the contribution of respective municipalities. Therefore, the HDP coordinator, with the support of the municipalities, institutions and communities, works for the benefit of the entire region. Ongoing capacity development and consistent improvement of knowledge and skills in this field are crucial to the implementation process. The HDP coordinator ensures the assessment of capacity development

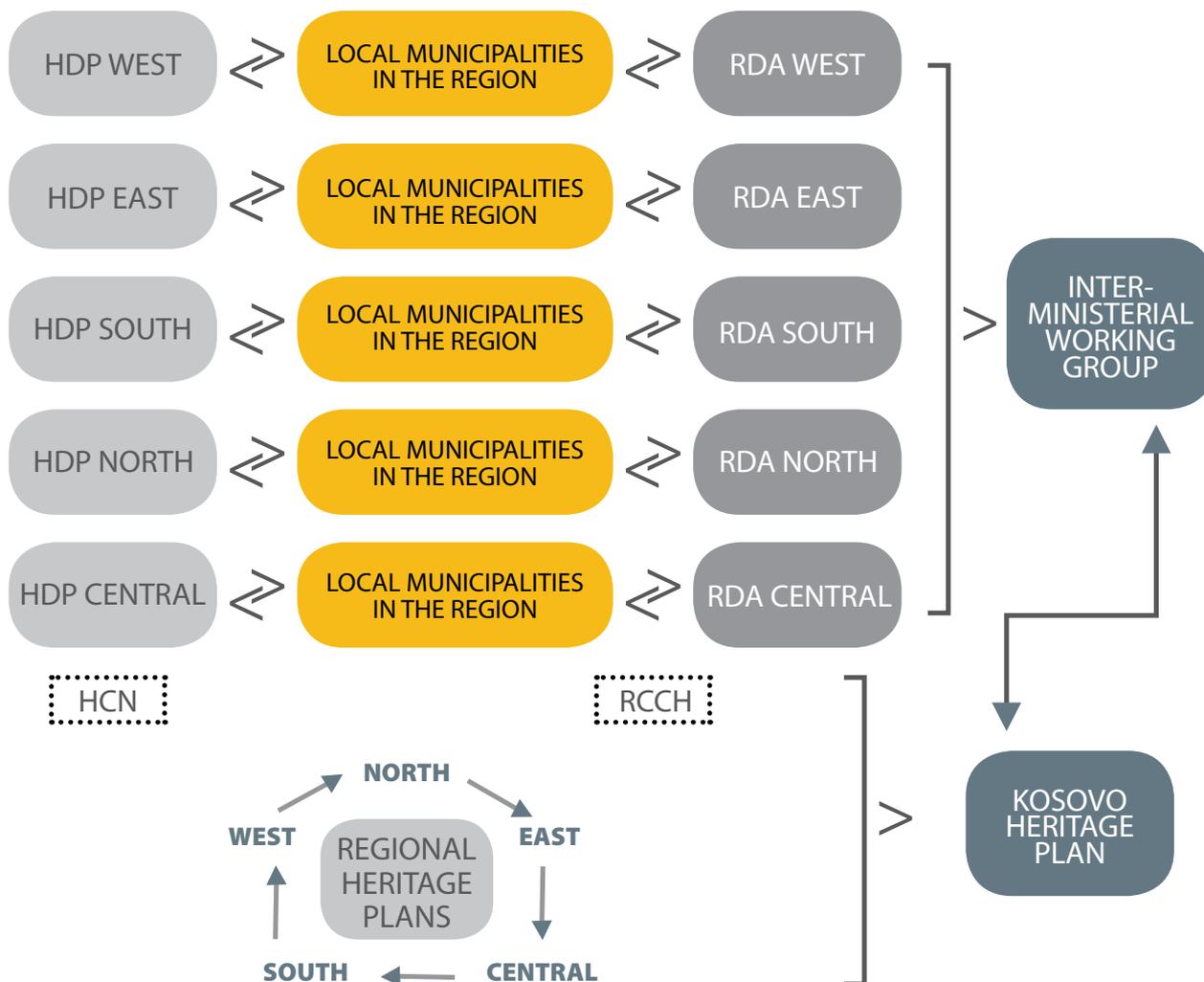
needs and addresses these needs by encouraging linkages and constant dialogue between entities and communities. While the Heritage Plan and its recommended actions acts as a guiding tool, the promotion and advocacy of cultural and natural heritage in the development of heritage-led initiatives could vary based on the means and willingness of the participating municipalities. This initial plan plays an essential role in

“ The ongoing implementation of the Regional Heritage Plan is an essential part of the process and active involvement of local stakeholders will play a crucial role for its effectiveness. ”

bringing municipalities and communities of the region together around a shared common vision, gradually becoming an effective part of local structures.

From this point on, the Heritage Plan encourages a dynamic process where all stakeholders work in the spirit of solidarity and synergy to contribute to their regional objectives in their respective municipalities and further their engagement with other municipalities to benefit from this process in the most positive way. The dimensions of these benefits go beyond financial means and include monitoring of the democratic participation of all communities in the development process and relative increase in the quality of life and living environment.

HERITAGE & DIVERSITY PROGRAMME (HDP) AND ITS CONNECTION TO HCN AND IMWG



The chart above broadly indicates the main issues. Ideally, it is envisaged that each HDP coordinator will be financed by the involved municipalities in their respective regions (following the Memorandum of Understanding to be signed, as already finalised in Kosovo West). They should conduct their work along five themes as follows:

- Research
- Promotion
- Innovative Actions
- Professional Development
- Support to Strategy-making and Heritage Plan

Some suggested steps are as follows:

1. **Heritage and Diversity Programme** and coordinators will be specific to each region and guided by the same shared handbook.
2. Sample regional joint programmes such as Cultural Itineraries (already being implemented by PCDK in the west, along with other initiatives) will be initiated by the HDPs in other regions.
3. Annual gathering of HDPs together with HCN and IMWG.
4. **Annual Report – Our Common Heritage:** this civil society review will be produced each year as a key output of the heritage plan process, promoting and monitoring its progress.
5. **Periodic Review of Regional Heritage Plans** (to be reviewed and updated subsequently every 3 years)
6. A Kosovo Heritage Plan will in time be produced by local stakeholders with HCN and IMWG, under the guidance of the HDP coordinators.
7. Kosovo Report on Heritage to be produced by local stakeholders with HCN and IMWG, under the guidance of the HDP coordinators.

This is an outline scenario. The heritage plan process is self-regenerating but it is also a dynamic process that will respond to the level of community interest, engagement and commitment. The ownership of the process will, over the course of the next year, pass to the local stakeholders and they will refine and adjust the future scenarios over time.

Long term strategy

With Heritage Plans being introduced into four other regions in Kosovo, today all five regions - west, south, east, north and central - have regional plans. Through the methodology, tools and sample programmes, developed by the PCDK project as well as through the installation of the Heritage and Diversity Programme Coordinators, a long term operational model has been introduced.

While the Heritage Plan concerns the entire region of Kosovo East, linkage between municipal, regional and central level is imperative for an effective and efficient implementation period. In this capacity, close cooperation and coordination between the Inter-Ministerial Working Group*, Heritage Community Network and HDP coordinators in the five regions will ensure the integrity of the process and will feed into the development of a Kosovo Heritage Plan.



²The PCDK project refers to the regions as North, South, Central, East, West based on Regional Development Agencies' definition.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Pilot Actions

As part of the integrated approach, in addition to the research conducted on built cultural heritage and natural heritage, intangible heritage practices listed below were evaluated in 2014. This was essential part of the integrated field work phase and the feasibility study report which has created a good platform for development of the Regional Heritage Plans. The Intangible Heritage listed has been identified and recognized as a heritage value of communities as samples of the rich and diverse heritage of the region. The on-going work under the heritage plan will add to this list on a progressive incremental planned basis.

During August – October 2014, pilot actions on Intangible Heritage practices were implemented in all 4 regions encouraging active involvement of the community. These pilot actions have presented to the local stakeholders a diverse intangible elements, making each region very specific and unique, but at the same time complementary to each other.

- The pilot actions of the region east included;
 - . Intangible Heritage Practices including:
 - . Traditional dance performance “Karadaku Dance” in Gjilan/Gnjilane
 - . Traditional food “Kaçamak and ashure” in Ferizaj/Uroševac

Traditional dance performance “Karadaku Dance”

Dances of Karadak region are traditional folk dances distinctive for the eastern region, also referred to as the Valley of Anamorava/Pomoravlje. They present very special dances of the Albanian speaking territories, where the primal peculiarity is the expressive featuring of dancers and emotions evocation almost as in a theatre performance.

These dances were born as a result of political, economic and social circumstances of this region. These dances have been used to express the demand for freedom and at the same time expressing the bravery of this community. Apart from the message of freedom and bravery, the finale of this dance expresses dynamism of liberation or explosion of joy, happiness and freedom. Instruments being used during these dances are the drums, surle (traditional woodwind instrument) and sometimes even çiftelia (traditional two stringed instruments). The Karadaku dances have three main types of dances: 1. Masculine dances - held waist to waist, 2. Bravery dances - held side by side, and 3. Lyrical dances - held hand by hand.

The Karadaku dance event (pilot action) was celebrated in the city of Gjilan/Gnjilane on October 24th, 2014 with a performance of 30 schoolchildren who presented the traditional Karadaku dance along with a professional dancing group, after having been trained for a week.

Traditional food “kaçamak and ashure”The pilot action in Ferizaj/Uroševac took place at Nika’s Mill focusing on presentation and serving of local traditional food. Two local known dishes were prepared by local artisans in the situ “kaçamak and ashure” while presenting step by step the process of preparation of such dishes. The participants were able to taste kaçamak and ashure while enjoying local dancing group performing traditional dance.

Appendix 2 – Members of Working Groups

Main partners

- Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports
- Regional Center for Cultural Heritage in Gjilan/Gnjilane
- Regional Center for Cultural Heritage in Ferizaj/Uroševac
- NGO ‘Cultural Heritage without Borders-CHwB’

Regional Working Group (East Region) members

Artan Hoxha, Director of RCCH for Gjilan /Gnjilane Region

Nexhat Shahini, Director of RCCH for Ferizaj/Uroševac Region

Faton Krasniqi, Department of Culture, Youth and Sports, Municipality of Kamenicë/Kamenica

Ismet Sejdiu, Department of Culture, Youth and Sports, Municipality of Viti/Vitina

Veton Nevzati, Department of Culture, Youth and Sports, Municipality of Gjilan/Gnjilane

Zvonimir Vasić, Department of Education and Culture, Municipality of Ranilug/Ranillug

Momcilo Stojkovic, Department for Health, Education Culture Youth and Sports, Klllokot/Klokot

Emrush Azemi, NGO Elita, Municipality of Viti/Vitina

Sadik Ymeri, Department of Education and Culture, Municipality of Šterpce/Shtërpçë

Agon Zhinipotoku, Department of Culture, Youth and Sports, Municipality of Ferizaj/Uroševac

Inter-municipal working group members (Viti/Vitina & Klllokot/Klokot)

Musa Ferizi, RCCH Gjilan/Gnjilane

Ismet Sejdiu, Department of Culture, Municipality of Viti/Vitina

Melihate Osmani, NGO Legjenda, Viti/Vitina

Adem Murati, Professor of History, Viti/Vitina

Muharrem Beqiri, Local Artisan, Viti/Vitina

Zvezdan Simić, Department of Culture, Youth and Sports, Municipality of Klllokot/Klokot

Sanja Vukovic, Centar for Community Development, Municipality of Klllokot/Klokot

Miroslav Stolic, Novo Radio Klllokot, Municipality of Klllokot/Klokot

Inter-municipal working group members (Kamenicë/Kamenica & Ranilug/Ranilug)

Arsim Dermaku, Historic Archive, Municipality of Kamenicë/Kamenica

Mefail Sadiku, House of Culture, Municipality of Kamenicë/Kamenica

Faton Krasniqi, Department of Culture, Youth and Sports, Municipality of Kamenicë/Kamenica

Azemine Maliqi, Department of Culture, Youth and Sports, Municipality of Kamenicë/Kamenica

Jadranka Ilic, Department of Culture, Youth and Sports, Municipality of Kamenicë/Kamenica

Shaban Berisha, Gymnasium “I.Qemajli” in Kamenicë/Kamenica

Nasković Igor, Department of Culture, Youth and Sports, Municipality of Ranilug/Ranillug

Dragan Markovic, Department of Culture, Youth and Sports, Municipality of Ranilug/Ranillug

Nedeljković Aleksandar, Office for Public Information, Municipality of Ranilug/Ranillug

Jovanović Jelena, Community representative, Ranilug/Ranillug
Natić Zorica, Office for Gender Equality and Human Rights, Municipality of Ranilug/Ranillug
Đurić Aca, Priest in Ranillug/Ranilug

Inter-municipal working group members (Ferizaj/Uroševac & Štrpce/Shtërpçë)

Nexhat Shahini, Director of RCCH in Ferizaj/Uroševac
Bedri Pajaziti, NGO Etika, Ferizaj/Uroševac
Biljan Boskocevic, Department of Urbanism and Spatial Planning, Municipality of Štrpce/Shtërpçë
Irir Bytyqi, Directorate of Culture, Youth and Sports, Municipality of Ferizaj/Uroševac
Cvetan Stojanovic, Directorate of Education and Culture, Municipality of Štrpce/Shtërpçë
Behard Bytyqi, Directorate of Culture, Youth and Sports, Municipality of Ferizaj/Uroševac
Naime Bega, RCCH in Ferizaj/Uroševac

Volunteers & Surveyors

Fatlume Guri, community volunteer
Azize Daki, community volunteer
Bajram Spahiu, community volunteer

Expert, representatives of institutions/authorities and private companies involved:

Terry O'Regan, Council of Europe expert – Ireland
Liam Scott, Heritage Council of Ireland
Valmira Gashi, expert from the MESP
Fadil Bajraktari, expert from the MESP
Nora Arapi, PCDK focal point from MCYS
Uragan Alija, local expert on data collection analysis
Rexhep Kqiku, web software developer
ASHA Company

Appendix 4 - Strategic Considerations Checklist in implementing an integrated approach

A. Community Engagement and Awareness Raising

- Extensive ongoing data collection and validation to recognised international standards.
- Assessment of local structures, influences and issues to better understand the stakeholder's needs and wants.
- Building capacity among stakeholders to raise local/regional awareness of heritage and diversity issues.
- Cooperation and guarantee of a certain level of coordination and consistency of approach with relevant partners.
- Promotion of effective knowledge-sharing based on research and facts.
- Ensuring the inclusion and participation of all communities, and accommodation of diverse ideas.
- Planning and undertaking of simultaneous awareness-raising activities with effective outreach to all communities and authorities, with necessary cultural appropriateness.
- Provision of strategies and resources for local awareness campaigns, which are both fun and educational.
- Provision of mechanisms to evaluate impact.

B. Protection measures

- Ensure the effective implementation of comprehensive and up-to-date legislation for the protection of heritage.
- Utilise heritage expertise.
- Develop proper management policies, programmes and plans.
- Maintain ongoing inventory preparation and detailed recording of different categories of cultural heritage in accordance with the criteria provided in the Cultural Heritage Law and the Guidelines on Inventory of Cultural Heritage Assets.
- Monitor the implementation of conservation projects in accordance with established criteria and procedures, and in balance with the reasonable requirements of the owners/occupants and local authorities' programmes and plans.
- Be aware of the "Archaeological Map" of the region so that preventive action can be taken if construction or other activities are intended to be undertaken in areas with archaeological features.
- Support the development of guidelines to encourage the retention, integration and enhancement of existing cultural and natural heritage.
- Be vigilant, and utilise all opportunities to encourage partnerships in the revitalisation of built heritage between responsible institutions, local authorities and owners.
- Focus on the long term impact in developing an integrated approach towards a sustainable and integrated network of national parks and reserves.

C. Planning and Design

- Thorough assessment with all stakeholders, particularly local communities.
- Realistic analysis of organisational and operational capacity.
- Increased cooperation and coordination between institutions, civil society and local authorities.
- Comprehensive Heritage Management Plan: prioritisation, technical assessment, and feasibility study.
- Specific attention on the inclusion of marginalised communities.
- Intercultural sensitivity towards existing groups based on age, geographic location, ability, gender, race, ethnicity.
- Comprehensive analysis of fundraising options and market trends.
- Effective public information campaign
- Well-planned monitoring and evaluation mechanism, with the follow-up phase in mind.
- Timely and accurate documentation.
- Appropriate professional development opportunities.

D. Management measures require:

- Remaining loyal to the set parameters agreed by stakeholders.
- Ensuring systematic quality control of goods and services.
- Maintaining a balance between tasks and process.
- Treating monitoring and evaluation as a learning process.
- Careful balancing of financial and human resources, and programme activities.
- Undertaking of regular assessment and data analysis to be able to adapt to changes.
- Awareness of the potential linkages and possibilities of cooperation to save resources and build partnerships.
- Provision of regular updates to stakeholders on the project progress to reinforce engagement.
- Promotion of the completed works to demonstrate progress and attract internal and external donors, partners and investors.

5.5 Cultural Heritage and Tourism involves:

- Recognising that Heritage Tourism can be a major contributor to local economic development.
- Recognising that heritage projects can increase heritage tourism when they are carried out as part of an integrated heritage tourism package. It would be beneficial to prioritise projects which are allied to good tourism infrastructure and commercial developments such as restaurants and accommodation provision.
- Ensuring involvement and integration of local populations with local heritage sites and the associated heritage tourism development.
- In developing and presenting heritage tourism, be sensitive at all times to the cultural diversity of local populations and tourists.
- Striving to present a balanced narrative of the heritage and history of the region, ensuring that presentations and information provided is based at all times on sound professional knowledge and research.
- Ensuring that a reasonable proportion of the income derived from heritage tourism is channeled back into heritage conservation.
- Recognising the inherent risk that exploiting one dimension of heritage as a tourism attraction in an area may threaten the conservation or even very existence of other heritage resources in the area.
- Recognising that heritage tourists will expect internationally-recognised standards with regard to the local physical and hospitality infrastructure.
- Prior to presenting heritage sites as tourism attractions, ensure that the requisite heritage protection measures are in place.
- Prior to presenting heritage sites as tourism attractions ensure that the associated health and safety issues have been addressed.
- Recognising that uncoordinated heritage tourism can give rise to negative impacts on local populations such as loss of privacy, increased traffic congestion, damage to property and the local public environment and disruption of local lifestyles.

Within the framework of the European Union and the Council of Europe Joint Programme "Support to the Promotion of the Cultural Diversity", this Heritage Plan maps a road of reconnection, re-joining and reconciliation between people, their land and their heritage. The plan reaches out to the wide diaspora of each municipality to write a joined-up story of wisdom, understanding and progress, providing all citizens with a dynamic process for sharing that story with their neighbours and visitors.



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